



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: HUM 2860 Introductory Film Studies

Section ID: 81136.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: A general education course that provides an introduction to film as an art form. Emphasis will be given to understanding the nature of film and its place in culture. Content includes the history and theory of film. **As needed.**

General Education Course Designation: General Education Course

Meeting Details: TR; 12:45PM - 02:10PM; LIB 102

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Matthew Lawson

Role: Associate Professor of Communication & Mass Communication

Office Location: HUM 148D

Office Hours: TBA

Office Phone: 423-318-2332

Email: Matthew.Lawson@ws.edu

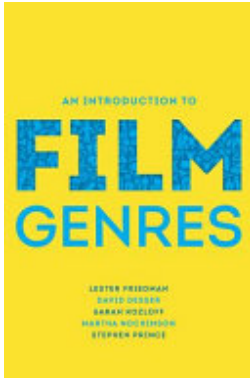
Supervisor Name: Marci Nimick

Supervisor Phone: 423-798-7986

Secretary Name: Debbie Wilson

Secretary Phone: 423-585-6947

Required Textbook(s) and Materials



An Introduction to Film Genres

ISBN: 9780393930191

Authors: Lester D. Friedman, David Desser, Sarah Kozloff, Martha Nochimson, Stephen Prince

Publisher: W W Norton & Company Incorporated

Publication Date: 2013-11-11

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Course Outcomes

1. To develop the student's fundamental appreciation of cinema as an art form.
2. To develop the student's basic approach to film as an original, cultural, and artistic phenomenon.
3. To develop the student's ability to criticize film from a historical, cultural, and theoretical perspective.
4. To develop the student's ability to cite the great names and historical movements associated with cinema from its birth onward.

Instructional Approach and Methods

1. Students will be evaluated based on their performance on a film genre project.
2. Students will be evaluated based on their performance on exams given at different intervals throughout the course.
3. Students will be evaluated based on the quality/competence of a presentation given during the course.
4. Students will be evaluated based on any assignments assigned by the instructor.
5. Students will be evaluated based on their class participation and attendance.

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

1. Exams will be drawn from the readings, films, and class notes. Exams will be primarily multiple-choice. All exams will be given online via eLearn unless circumstances require a physical exam.
2. All exams must be taken on the day scheduled. If a student misses an exam due to illness the student should contact the instructor immediately upon his/her return to campus to schedule a makeup exam.
3. No makeup exams will be given except in cases of documented personal illness or emergencies.

Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59 or below

Assignments

Competencies

1. The student should be able to appreciate film/cinema as an art form.
2. The student should be able to develop a basic approach to film as an original, cultural, and artistic phenomenon.
3. The student should be able to criticize film from a historical, cultural, and theoretical perspective.
4. The student should be able to cite the great names and historical movements associated with cinema from its birth onward.
5. The student should be able to discuss and/or demonstrate elements of a film/film genre in a presentation and/or project.

Class Participation

1. Students are expected to attend all designated classes. Class attendance and participation in in-class activities are absolutely essential to the student's ultimate success in the course. Failure to attend class and participate effectively in class may result in a failing grade for the course. Attendance, viewing of films, taking notes, experiential/hands-on learning, student readings, and out-of-class activities ("homework") are all important. The student will be expected to have read, viewed, and/or prepared the assigned material, and be able to participate in class discussions.
2. Although class activities missed because of absence cannot be made up, a limited amount of make-up work may be done for excused absences (illness or family emergency). Additional extra-credit work may be approved by the instructor. No makeups will be allowed for unexcused absences. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed work.
3. Behaviors related to attendance and participation – such as frequent absences or tardiness, distracting or inappropriate class conduct, or the failure to complete assignments on time – may significantly lower the student's grade.

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

1. Exams will be drawn from the readings, films, and class notes. Exams will be primarily multiple-choice. All exams will be given online via eLearn unless circumstances require a physical exam. All exams must be taken on the day scheduled. If a student misses an exam due to illness the student should contact the instructor immediately upon his/her return to campus to schedule a makeup exam. No makeup exams will be given except in cases of documented personal illness or emergencies. Makeup exams must be completed within one week.
2. All assignments must be completed on or by the assigned date. A late penalty will be assessed at 25% per day for all work not completed on time. All written assignments must be typed or word-processed.
3. All materials turned in become the property of the Communication Department.
4. All forms of cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty are strictly prohibited. All presentations, papers, and assignments for the course should be the student's original work according to guidelines governing the assignment. The penalty for cheating and plagiarism on tests, presentations, or assignments is a grade of zero and referral to the WSCC administration for any institutional penalties. Repeated violations can result in a grade of 'F' for the course.

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

Participation and Attendance

A major focus of Humanities 2860 is that the student be able to criticize cinema in a learned manner. Failure to do so, and to absorb the necessary materials prescribed, could result in a low final grade! Therefore, class attendance and participation in class activities are absolutely essential to the student's ultimate success in the course. Failure to attend class and participate effectively may result in a failing grade for the course. Missed screenings cannot be redone—unless the films are found outside-of-class. Therefore, each class absence can reduce the student's class participation grade. Other behaviors related to attendance and participation such as frequent tardiness, distracting or inappropriate classroom conduct, the failure to participate in group exercises, or the failure to complete assignments and presentations on time may significantly affect the student's participation grade and final course grade.

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be noted in this class. Attendance is worth 20% of the overall course grade and is expected and will be recorded. Attendance is crucial for this course.

Absences and Makeup Work

Students are expected to attend all classes. THERE MAY BE A MINIMUM OF EXTRA-CREDIT WORK, BUT DOING THE REGULAR WORK IS ENCOURAGED! Missed screenings may be corrected by the student viewing the necessary film on his or her own time. NO MAKEUP CLASSWORK WILL BE GIVEN TO AN UNEXCUSED ABSENTEE. Note: The student should consult the Walters State Community College catalog for further attendance and classroom conduct information.

E-mail Response Time:

The instructor will check and reply to eLearn e-mail as quickly as possible. Please allow up to 24-48 hours.

Procedure for Submission of Work:

All work for this class, unless otherwise noted, will be submitted digitally online via eLearn or some other digital method. Students will not be notified if work is not submitted. It is the student's responsibility to submit their work in a timely manner.

Testing Procedures:

All exams will be given online via eLearn unless circumstances require a physical exam.

Grading and Work Return Procedures and Evaluation Process:

Exams will be worth 50% of the overall course grade and will be graded digitally via eLearn unless circumstances require a physical exam. Students will receive their grade instantly after the completion of their exam online.

The Film/Film Genre presentation will be worth 20% of the overall course grade.

The Film Genre project will be worth 10% of the overall course grade.

Attendance and Participation is worth 20% of the overall course.

Alternate Teaching Plan:

In case of inclement weather or any other event requiring the cancellation of classes, please refer to eLearn for any instructions or assignments related to the class.

NOTE:

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions).

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.

- b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
- a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\)](https://helpdesk.waltersstate.edu)
[helpdesk.ws.edu](https://helpdesk.waltersstate.edu)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\)](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](http://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student

information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.

- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above

paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](#)
[ws.edu/set/](#)

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#)

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#)

Dropping this Course

If a student wants to drop this course by the aforementioned date at the top of this syllabus, this has to be initiated by the student.

The instructor **cannot drop the student from the course.**

Please contact the instructor with any questions regarding dropping the course.