

**COMM274 Introduction to Cinema**  
**Section 002**  
**Spring 2023**

Online

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Office hours: By appointment

**TEXT:**

*The Cultures of American Film* by Robert P. Kolker, University of Maryland.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION and LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Introduction to Cinema will study cinema as a complex medium of global communication. The objectives of this course are to provide the student with the basic terminology, observational skills and theoretical/critical background for the study of film aesthetics, history, production, and cultural criticism. The format of the classes will consist of video lectures, screenings via Swank, and discussion via Sakai. Assigned readings must be completed on time to facilitate the analysis and discussion of films screened in class.

**LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should:

1. Possess an understanding of the fundamental aesthetic elements and techniques used to create film, thus being able to better deconstruct and comprehend the filmmaking process.
2. Be able to articulate differences and similarities between film forms and styles such as, but not limited to, auteurism, genre, narrative, documentary, and alternative forms.
3. Consider their film analysis-oriented writing skills improved.
4. Consider their filmic vocabulary and conversational skills expanded.

**COURSE WORK:**

To obtain a passing grade in this course students are required to:

1. Comment in the forums on each film screened and the assigned reading.
2. Write a paper on a foreign film (non-English language) of their choosing.
3. Pass a test on common cinema terms and ideas.
4. Create an online presentation on a specific cinema topic and comment on at least 5 other student presentations.

**GRADING:**

Grades are based on a 1,000-point scale.

**Grades will be determined in the following manner:**

7 Comparative Essays (50 points each)	350 points
Test:	200 points
Foreign Film Paper:	200 points
Presentation:	250 points

See assignment sheets for specific grade rubrics.

**FINAL GRADE SCALE:**

1000-940:	A
939-900:	A-
899-880:	B+
879-830:	B
829-800:	B-
799-780:	C+
779-730:	C
729-700:	C-
699-680:	D+
679-640:	D
639-600:	D-
599-0:	F

**Attendance:**

Attendance is required.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

School of Communication Statement on Academic Integrity

A basic mission of a university is to search for and to communicate the truth, as it is honestly perceived. A genuine learning community cannot exist unless this demanding standard is a fundamental tenet of the intellectual life of the community. Students of Loyola University Chicago are expected to know, to respect, and to practice this standard of personal honesty.

Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, and submitting false documents. Academic cheating is a serious act that violates academic integrity. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, such acts as:

- Obtaining, distributing, or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher
- Providing information to another student during an examination
- Obtaining information from another student or any other person during an examination
- Using any material or equipment during an examination without consent of the instructor, or in a manner which is not authorized by the instructor
- Attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted
- Unauthorized collaboration, or the use in whole or part of another student's work, on homework, lab reports, programming assignments, and any other course work which is completed outside of the classroom
- Falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences or extensions of deadlines
- Any other action that, by omission or commission, compromises the integrity of the academic evaluation process

Students who commit an act of plagiarism, whether deliberately or accidentally, will still be held responsible. Ignorance of academic rules, or failure to fact check work, sources and citations, is not an acceptable defense against the charge of plagiarism. It is true that every thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes the following:

- Submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as print, Internet, CD-ROM, audio, video, etc.
- Submitting as one's own another person's unpublished work or examination material
- Allowing another or paying another to write or research a paper for one's own benefit
- Purchasing, acquiring, and using for course credit a pre-written paper

The above list is in no way intended to be exhaustive. Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty; any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. A more detailed description of this issue can be found at:

<http://luc.edu/english/writing.shtml#source>

In addition, a student may not submit the same paper or other work for credit in two or more classes without the expressed prior permission of all instructors.

A student who submits the same work for credit in two or more classes without the expressed prior permission of all instructors will be judged guilty of academic dishonesty, and will be subject to sanctions described below. This applies even if the student is enrolled in the classes during different semesters. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content for credit in two or more classes, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard.

Plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will result minimally in the instructor's assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. The instructor may impose a more severe sanction, including a grade of "F" in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported by the instructor to the chairperson of the department involved, and to the Dean of the School of Communication.

The office of the Dean of the School of Communication may constitute a hearing board to consider the imposition of sanctions in addition to those imposed by the instructor, including a recommendation of expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. In the case of multiple instances of academic dishonesty, the Dean's office may convene a separate hearing board to review these instances. The student has the right to appeal the decision of the hearing board to the Dean of SOC. If the student is not a member of the SOC, the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled shall be part of the process.

Students have the right to appeal the decision of any hearing board and the deans of the two schools will review the appeal together. Their decision is final in all cases except expulsion. The sanction of expulsion for academic dishonesty may be imposed only by the Provost upon recommendation of the dean or deans.

Students have a right to appeal any finding of academic dishonesty against them. The procedure for such an appeal can be found at:

[http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicgrievance.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicgrievance.shtml)

The School of Communication maintains a permanent record of all instances of academic dishonesty. The information in that record is confidential. However, students may be asked to sign a waiver which releases that student's record of dishonesty as a part of the student's application to a graduate or professional school, to a potential employer, to a bar association, or to similar organizations.

\*The School of Communication policy is based entirely on and is consistent with the Academic Integrity Policy of the College of Arts & Sciences.

#### **ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

- Students are expected to be actively engaged in the online class discussions.
- No late assignments will be accepted.

- All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced and proofread.

## **Diversity and Inclusion Statement**

I would like to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.) To help accomplish this:

- If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official Loyola records, please let me know!
- If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you. Remember that you can also submit anonymous feedback (which will lead to me making a general announcement to the class, if necessary to address your concerns).
- I (like many people) am still in the process of learning about diverse perspectives and identities. If something was said in class (by anyone) that made you feel uncomfortable, please talk to me about it. (Again, anonymous feedback is always an option).

## **A Note About Finals**

I am giving you an online test that is due Monday May 1st, the first day of finals week. I will give you the entire previous week to complete it.

## **Course Calendar**

### **Week One Jan. 16th: Hollywood Stories Part 1**

Introduction to the course, Go over the syllabus, assignments, readings.

Screening:

Visions of Light:

<https://vimeo.com/497115013>

Singin' in the Rain:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2F%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2F9ACCCB295F50F15F%3Freferrer%3Ddirect>

**Assignments:**

**Read Chapters 3, 7, 11**

### **Week Two Jan. 23rd: Hollywood Stories: Part 2**

Screening:

La La Land:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2F%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2F42C5353AB477179D>

**Assignments:**

**Read Chapters 12, 15**

**Essay # 1 Due January 30th**

**Week Three Jan. 30th: Film Noir and MORE Hollywood Stories**

Screening:

Sunset Boulevard:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Ffluc271748%2Fwatch%2FB45D4CE5E6CC8E94%3Freferrer%3Ddirect>

**Week Four Feb. 6th: Film Noir AND more Hollywood Stories**

Screening:

Chinatown:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Ffluc271748%2Fwatch%2FB60DC5607A2FD78E>

**Essay # 2 due Feb. 13th**

**Read Chapter 14**

**Week Five Feb. 13th: Comedy Part 1**

Presentation # 1

Screening:

Blazing Saddles:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Ffluc271748%2Fwatch%2F3E3F358768C097E7>

**Week Six Feb. 20th: Comedy Part 2**

Presentation # 2

Screening:

Ferris Bueller's Day Off

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Ffluc271748%2Fwatch%2F02145CF0F32B4CDA>

**Assignments: Essay #3 Due Feb. 27th**

**Week Seven Feb. 27th: Westerns Part 1**

Presentation #3

Screening:

High Noon:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Ffluc271748%2Fwatch%2FC7E440F0481D1960>

**Assignments:**

**Foreign Film Choice due March 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Read Chapter 16**

**Week of March 6<sup>th</sup>- Spring Break**

### **Week Eight March 13: Westerns Part 2**

Presentation # 4

True Grit:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2F67645B9E19503FE2%3Freferrer%3Ddirect>

**Assignments:**

**Foreign Film Selection due.**

**Essay #4 due March 20th**

### **Week Nine March 20th: African-American Cinema Part 1**

Presentation # 5

Screening:

Do The Right Thing:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2F3831E212C82B1647%3Freferrer%3Ddirect>

**Assignments:**

**Read: In Praise of Diversity p. 333-339**

**Essay # 4 due**

### **Week Ten March 27th: African-American Cinema Part 2**

Presentation # 6

Screening:

Boyz in The Hood:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2FA79C95254548C217>

**Essay # 5 due April 3**

### **Week Eleven April 3: Sci-Fi Part 1**

Presentation # 7

Screening:

Invasion of the Body Snatchers:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2FB1D5E640FBAF056C>

**Assignments: Essay #6 Due April 3**

**Foreign Film Paper Due April 10**

**Read Chapter 17**

### **Week Twelve April 10: Sci-Fi Part 2**

Presentation # 8

Screening:

Close Encounters of the Third Kind:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2F5BC96AD2DA538A5A>

**Assignments:**

**Foreign Film Paper due April 10**

**Essay #6 due April 17**

**Week Thirteen April 17: Mafia Films Part 1**

Presentation # 9

Screening:

The Godfather:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2F089D1ADE6561841E%3Freferrer%3Ddirect>

**Assignments:**

**Read Chapter 25**

**Essay #6 Due**

**Week Fourteen: Mafia Films Part 2**

Presentation # 10

Screening:

Goodfellas:

<https://go.openathens.net/redirector/luc.edu?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdigitalcampus.swankmp.net%2Fuc271748%2Fwatch%2F181F9A2A80A306A7>

**Assignments:**

**Essay # 7 Due May 1**

**Finals Week May 1**

**Online test Due. May 1**

**Essay #7 Due May 1**

**COURSE CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE *WITH* NOTIFICATION**