



0501A200

Introduction to Film History

Instructor: TBA

Time: Monday through Friday (June 29, 2026-July 31, 2026)

Office Hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Email: TBA

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of film history. Looking at major developments, explains concepts, summarizes debates in film studies, defines technical terms, describes major periods and movements, and discusses historical situations. The emergence of new artistic media, subject matter, and strategies of making and viewing will be also discussed. Emphasis will be placed on the methods of interpreting the works, especially in relation to then-current social practices and cultural values.

Required Textbook(s)

A Short History of Film—2nd Edition by Wheeler Winston Dixon (Author),
Gwendolyn Audrey Foster (Author) Rutgers University Press

Prerequisites

No prerequisites

Course Goals

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate the role of movies in evolving society, both reflecting and sometimes

leading social change

2. The role of the aesthetic elements of a movie in creating its message and potential for audience engagement
3. Specifically, the students will be able to analyze and articulate the roles of directing, cinematography, audio, set design, acting and other variables that contribute to the movie experience

Course Schedule

Please note that the schedule is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

Week I

1. Introduction.
2. Chap. 1: The Invention of the Movies
3. Chap. 2: The Birth of an American Industry
4. Chap. 3: World Cinema and the Silent Era

Week II

1. Chap. 4: The Hollywood Studio System in the 1930s and 1940s
2. American Cinema in the 1940s.
3. Chap. 5: International Cinema through WWII
4. First exam

Week III

1. Chap. 6: Postwar Challenges to the Movies
2. Chap. 7: World Cinema in the 1950s
3. Review/Second exam

Week IV

1. Chap. 8: The 1960s Explosion
2. Chap. 9: World Cinema 1970 to the Present
3. Chap. 10: The New Hollywood

Week V

1. Documentary, a history and summary of techniques
2. Final exam

NOTICE: In order to provide students with an interesting and enjoyable educational experience, this syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor at any time with notification.

Grading Policy

Exams	50%
Projects	30%
Presentation	20%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90~100
Good	B	80~89
Satisfactory	C	70~79
Poor	D	60~69
Failed	E	Below 60

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in the class. It would be recorded each class and forms part of students' participation record. Students should inform the instructor at the earliest opportunity if they need to ask for a leave. All absences may have negative effect on students' final grades. Any students with more than three unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Jinan University academic community, students are expected to be

honest in all of their academic coursework and activities. Academic dishonesty, includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e., misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or a substantially similar paper, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; or sabotaging other students' work within these general definitions. Instructors, however, determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties that range from the lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.