



暨南大學
JINAN UNIVERSITY

0501A200

Introduction to Film History

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

Time: December 14, 2026 - January 15, 2027

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of film history. During this course we will examine major developments in the industry's history, concepts, summarize debates in film studies, define technical terms in regard to aesthetics and techniques as well as describe major periods and movements. The emergence of new artistic media, subject matter, and strategies of making and viewing will also be 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

By the end of the course, 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
4. Understand how film styles changed with different decades and directors in terms of how films were shot, edited and the content that was acceptable in each era.
5. Understand how certain films were centerpieces of film history-these films changed how people watched films.
6. Understanding what the directors did to make the film unique and why it was relevant to that decade is important to consider.

Course Outline

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

Module 1

- **Topics:** earliest movies, U.S. Supreme Court allows censorship of movies, block booking; economy affects movie industry (Video 1-8)
- **Textbook:**
 - **Chap. 1:** The Invention of the Movies;
 - **Chap. 2:** The Birth of an American Industry;
- **Quiz 1**

Module 2

- **Topics:** Great movies of 20's, 30's and 40's (Videos 9-18)
- **Textbook:**
 - **Chap. 4:** The Hollywood Studio System in the 1930s and 1940s
 - **Chap. 5:** International Cinema through WWII
- **Quiz 2**

Module 3

- **Topics:** Role of movie producers, great movies of '50's; what is "cool"; defining "film noir" (Videos 19-25)
- **Textbook:**
 - **Chap. 6:** Postwar Challenges to the Movies
 - **Chap. 7:** World Cinema in the 1950s
- **Quiz 3**
- **Project 1 Due**

Module 4

- **Topics:** anti-heroes and great movies of 60's; introducing disaster films (Videos 26-34)
- **Textbook: Chap. 8:** The 1960s Explosion
- **Midterm exam**

Module 5

- **Topics:** anti-heroes in famous '70's movies; Bob Fossie; Jesus Christ, Superstar; historical satires (Videos 35-43)
- **Quiz 4**

Module 6

- **Topics:** Vietnam movies in '70's; foreign films (Videos 44-48)
- **Textbook: Chap. 9:** World Cinema 1970 to the Present
- **Quiz 5**

Module 7

- **Topics:** Foreign films; Chinese movie history (Videos 49-54)
- **Quiz 6**
- **Project 2 Due**

Module 8

- **Topics:** Paddy Cheyefsky and a look at the movie industry today (Videos 55-60)
- **Textbook:**

➤ **Chap. 10: The New Hollywood**

● **Final Exam**

Grading Policy

Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Project 1	15%
Project 2	15%
Quizzes	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

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 receiving a failing grade for the entire course.