



# 0501A200

## Introduction to Film History

**Instructor:** TBA

**E-mail:** TBA

**Time:** October 21, 2024 - November 22, 2024

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

**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 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.

Note that the viewing of the videos may not coincide with the readings. Also note that the content in the videos and PowerPoint does not necessarily follow the book.

You will receive a study guide informing you what from the text is subject to be part of an exam. **The study guide will NOT involve content from the videos or PowerPoint.**

#### ***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.

#### **PROJECT 1 DUE WEDNESDAY OF WEEK 2**

**Late assignments not accepted. See project below**

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

**FIRST EXAM WEDNESDAY OF WEEK 3 (exams are multiple choice)**

3. Group meetings for presentations
4. Review/Second exam

***Week IV***

1. Chap. 8: The 1960s Explosion

**PROEJCT 2 DUE TUESDAY OF WEEK 4**

**Late assignments not accepted**

2. Chap. 9: World Cinema 1970 to the Present
3. Chap. 10: The New Hollywood
4. Group meetings for presentation.

***Week V***

1. Documentary, a history and summary of techniques

**FINAL EXAM FRIDAY OF WEEK 5 (the final exam is NOT cumulative)**

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.

**Project**

**Project 1: View the Potemkin step sequence and the video offering analysis of it. (Due Wednesday of second week)**

Explain in an essay of 1-2 pages: Your answers will be your opinion. There are no right or wrong answers UNLESS your answers show you gave this little or no thought. View the Potemkin Step Sequence via the links provided and answer the following. Make sure you explain your answers fully with sufficient detail to prove your point.

1. What was the director trying to communicate with this film? What was the overall message? (I am not asking for the history of the movie, but what messages would a viewer take away after viewing this.)
- 2.. Though music was not part of the original production, what was the purpose of the music suddenly stopping during the confrontation?
3. What did the music add to the production?
4. Was the graphic violence necessary for the story to reach its intended effect?
5. The suffering of the villagers was shown through close ups of their faces. Why weren't the faces of the military officers advancing on the steps ever shown?

**Battleship Potempkin Odessa Step sequence:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps-v-kZzfec&bpctr=1591570793>

**Explanation of Potempkin step sequence (directed by Sergei Eisenstein):**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5WbeoP\\_B8E&t=308s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5WbeoP_B8E&t=308s)

**Project 2:**

**(make sure you answer each question in order and let me know which question you are answering. Your essay should be 1-2 pages total.)**

**(due Tuesday of fourth week)**

Think of a movie that changed your life, either by being so funny, so moving, teaching you something about what people are capable of (good or bad) or changed your life in some other manner.

Discuss HOW the movie achieved its affect on you —what made the movie so good—by giving the following info:

1. Name of the film including a brief summary of its plot
2. Director:
3. Discuss 3 of the following and how these elements added to the effect of the film: the film's acting, directing, editing, music, set design, visual effects. Explain with sufficient detail to explain what made the movie special.

## Grading (by assignment)

Each exam is worth 30 points (2 exams X 30= 60 points)

Each project is worth 20 points (2 projects X 20=40 points)

Total possible points= 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

## Course Requirements

1. Students are expected to read the required readings prior to the class session in which they are discussed.
2. I will respond to emails in a timely manner. It is best to make an appointment or speak to me after lecture.
3. Please check your email regularly for instructions and readings.

## Methods of Instruction

Lecture via video with PowerPoints distributed to students.

## 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.

Given the online nature of this course, attendance will be impossible to measure. Your viewing of the videos and reading of the text will be verified by your work on exams.

Your thought processes and attention to detail will be noted through the two written assignments outside exams.

### **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.