Course Description: This Boise State University core class is designed as an introduction to an interrelated set of approaches to the study of film, all of them defined by their attention to the filmic text. The class will familiarize the student with film history—artistic, technological, economic, and cultural—and examine some of the major conceptual models that have been applied to that history (i.e., the elements of film form and narrative, genres, and cultural influences). The course will be made up of lectures, presentations, discussions, and film viewings. Students’ knowledge of the subject matter will be evaluated through written analyses of films and exams.

Learning Objectives: The following are the objectives for this course, including the means for assessing the successful study of course material and completion of class requirements:

Content Knowledge

Distinguish between the various components of film form and content. Assessment: Peer review, and instructor assessment of in-class film review presentations as well as written film reviews; quizzes, and exams, with specific, content-related questions.

Demonstrate knowledge of major advances, events and individuals in the development of motion pictures. Assessment: Quizzes, and exams, with specific, content-related questions.

Analytical Skills

Distinguish between the major influences of various historically important filmmakers. Assessment: Exams, with specific, content-related questions.

Articulate the meaning of a film through the analysis of its form and content. Assessment: Peer review, and instructor assessment of in-class film review presentations as well as written film reviews; quizzes, with specific, content-related questions.

Reasoning and Engagement

Articulate the meaning of a film through the analysis of its form and content. Assessment: Peer review, and instructor assessment of in-class film review presentations as well as written film reviews; quizzes, with specific, content-related questions.

Appreciative Skills

Distinguish between the major influences of various historically important filmmakers. Assessment: Peer review, and instructor assessment of in-class film review presentations as well as written film reviews; quizzes, and exams, with specific, content-related questions.

Identify the major characteristics that define a variety of historically and critically important films from various periods and cultures. Assessment: Peer review, and instructor assessment of in-class film review presentations as well as written film reviews; quizzes, and exams, with specific, content-related questions.
Textbook: *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film*, Third Edition, Richard Barsam (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2007). Please note: W.W. Norton offers students an online version of the same textbook for a significantly reduced cost. To purchase access to the online version of the book, go to [www.nortonebooks.com](http://www.nortonebooks.com). The publisher also has a very useful website which allows students to view movie clips associated with/referenced in the textbook material, and offers study guides and quizzes for each chapter to help students prepare for tests. Check it out at: [http://wwnorton.com/college/film/movies3](http://wwnorton.com/college/film/movies3)

**Grading System:** Students will be required to attend class regularly, read the textbook, participate in class discussions, attend required film viewings, participate in one in-class group activity, individually present a film review to the class, submit one writing assignment on time, and pass three exams.

*Attendance and participation:* Attendance affects your grade in two ways: 1) Most of the content on quizzes and exams is covered in class, therefore, students who attend regularly can obtain important information for study guides that will help them prepare and do well on quizzes and exams; and 2) If a student’s final grade averages to within **ONE point** of a higher grade, he/she will receive the higher grade if they have not missed more than two classes without prior notification to the instructor via email.

**In-class Assignments:** There will be two in-class assignments: 1) A three minute in-class film review with a written portion to be handed-in (see attachment to syllabus for guidelines) **worth 75 points**, and 2) a collaborative group assignment to analyze a film review and identify its parts (guidelines will be given in-class) **worth 25 points**.

**Exams:** Students are required to pass three exams (including the final) based on the required reading, lectures, and required films. **Each exam is worth 100 points (300 points total).** Students will have two hours to complete each exam. Make-up exams are given only because of extraordinary circumstances with verifiable documentation and permission of the instructor prior to the scheduled exams dates.

Students who fail to schedule and take their exams on the designated exam dates will receive zero credit for the exam. No exceptions.

**Quizzes:** A total of 10 online quizzes (**10 points each**) will be administered on Blackboard which students may complete at home, by computer, and which open and close on specified dates. **No make-ups will be allowed if students fail to complete the quizzes during the one week designated timeframe for each quiz.** Quizzes will cover material from each chapter in the textbook covered in the syllabus and are open-book.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit points may be earned by answering two course-evaluations on Blackboard (one mid-semester, and one end-of-semester evaluation each worth 4 points possible = 8 points total possible). **These are the only opportunities for extra credit offered in this course.**

**Grade point system:** Final grades for the course will be based on the following 500 point system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>470-500</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>469-450</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>435-449</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>434-420</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>419-400</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>399-385</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>384-370</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>369-350</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>349-335</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>334-320</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>319-300</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
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<td>299-0</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Class Conduct:** Oftentimes in large classes we feel, as students, that we are anonymous and that our behavior has no impact on the class. Your presence in this class is noticed and each student contributes to the learning experience in the class. I ask that you be aware of certain behaviors that detract from the classroom experience and environment: **Please avoid:**

- Talking or texting* during lectures and film presentations *Students who text message during class will be asked to leave immediately.
- Inappropriately surfing the net on your laptop
- Sleeping during in-class movie viewings
- Leaving early without informing the instructor before class begins
- Cheating on tests or **plagiarizing in writing assignments**

**An important issue for you to consider:** According to the BSU Code of Conduct, cheating and plagiarizing (which includes writing someone else’s words or phrasing as your own, or copying someone else’s paper off the internet and putting your name on it) are unacceptable in the academic environment and will seriously jeopardize your academic status and ability to earn a degree at Boise State. All instances of cheating or plagiarism are reported to the Office for Student Conduct. Verifiable cheating on a test or plagiarism in a writing assignment warrants an automatic F on the test or assignment, and may jeopardize a student’s ability to pass the class.

**Students who do well in this class typically practice the following positive behaviors:**

- Email the instructor as soon as possible about extenuating circumstances that prohibit you from attending class or submitting an assignment if they arise
- Attend class regularly & contribute to discussions
- Take thorough notes during lectures.

**E-mail, Blackboard Accounts, and Communication:**

All registered BSU students receive a college email and Blackboard account. Every course at BSU has a Blackboard component. It is the student’s responsibility to access both accounts regularly to avoid missing important messages and deadlines.

Regular communication with the instructor is vital to a student’s success in the class. Students who communicate regularly with the instructor in class, during office hours, and/or via email about assignments, attendance, and extenuating circumstances as they arise, tend to do better in the class.

The primary means for communicating with the instructor is via the email address listed at the top of this syllabus (using BSU email accounts only) and Blackboard. Students should check Blackboard and their BSU email accounts regularly for announcements, assignments, and messages related to class.

**Students who anticipate an absence from class should communicate with the instructor via email immediately and as far in advance as possible to make arrangements for completing missed work.**

**Students who do not contact the instructor in advance via email about an absence or extenuating circumstance WILL NOT be given opportunity to complete in-class work for credit.**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and class schedule as needed.