THEA 220: CINEMA HISTORY & AESTHETICS
DEPARTMENT OF THEATER ARTS at BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

INSTRUCTOR: Anne M. Allen  anneallen@boisestate.edu

Course Description: Boise State's Foundations Program provides undergraduates with a broad-based education that spans the entire university experience. THEA 220: Cinema History and Aesthetics satisfies three units of the Foundational Studies Program’s Disciplinary Lens: Visual and Performing Arts requirement. It supports the following University Learning Outcomes, along with a variety of other course-specific goals:

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students should be able to apply knowledge and methods characteristic of the visual and performing arts to explain and appreciate the significance of aesthetic products and creative activities.

THEA 220 is designed to provide knowledge of the development of motion pictures with attention given to the elements and qualities peculiar to cinema, which give it validity as a unique and multi-cultural art form. This course helps to achieve the goals of the Foundations Program by focusing on the following course learning outcomes. After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Distinguish between the various components of film form and content.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of major advances, events and individuals in the development of motion pictures.

3. Distinguish the major influences of various historically important filmmakers.

4. Articulate the meaning of a film through the analysis of its form and content.

5. Identify a variety of historically and critically important films from various periods and cultures.


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.

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

Grading System:

Your final grade for this class is earned by completing the following requirements for the course:

Analyzing a Review (In-class Group Activity): = 25 points
Written Film Review & Oral Presentation: = 75 points
Weekly Online Quizzes: (10 weekly quizzes worth 10 points each) = 100 points
Three Exams (including the Final): = 300 points

500 points total
**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 (one point only; any other point difference is non-negotiable), he/she will receive the higher grade if they have not missed more than two classes without prior notification to the instructor via email. **Attendance will be recorded weekly.**

**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 one hour 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 individually (online) 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:

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<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>
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<td>334-320</td>
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<td>319-300</td>
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<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.
- Inappropriately surfing the net on your laptop.
- Sleeping during in-class movie viewings.
- Dominating group discussions or speaking in an inflammatory manner.
- Leaving early without informing the instructor before class begins.
- Cheating on tests or **plagiarizing in writing assignments.**

Anyone found disrupting the class in any of the above mentioned ways, will be immediately dismissed from class, without receiving credit for assignments or attendance for that class period.
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.

Course Design for Accessibility:

Because the cinematic content of the course has been compiled over several years and from a variety of sources, closed captioning may not be available for all materials. The department strongly recommends that all deaf or hearing-impaired students have interpreters for class. The department can make all film examples from class available to students for study outside of class with assistance.

Because successful completion of the class is dependent upon students actually seeing films and interpreting the many visual components within them, the course is not appropriate for blind or severely vision-impaired students.

For students who need additional study time with class materials, such as film clips, the department can provide copies of all film examples used in the class for private study.
The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and class schedule as needed.