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Course Description and Objectives

THEA 220: Cinema History and Aesthetics satisfies three units of the Foundational Studies Program’s Disciplinary Lens—Visual and Performing Arts (DL-VPA) requirement. It supports the following University Learning Outcomes, along with a variety of other course-specific goals.

- 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 Foundation Program by focusing on the following course learning outcomes.

After successful completion of this course you will be able to:
- Distinguish between the various components of film form and content;
- Demonstrate knowledge of major advances, events and individuals in the development of motion pictures;
- Distinguish the major influences of various historically important filmmakers;
- Articulate the meaning of a film through the analysis of its form and content;
- Associate plays with the social and historical context in which they were written and performed;
- Identify a variety of historically and critically important films from various periods and cultures.

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 course 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.
Assessment of Course Objective

Assessment of the above objectives will be pursued through the following:

• Participation in class discussions and readings
• Exams on required reading, films, and lecture material (3)
• Writing assignment on a required film viewing (1)
• Short written projects as assigned (2 or 3)

Course Materials

There is one required textbook for this course:


Class Policies

• **Attendance is your responsibility.** It will affect your grade in that those who are fully present during each class tend to earn higher grades (i.e., it is difficult to pass this class if you don’t attend). Lateness is annoying, and I ask that you try to be on time. Also, if you must leave class early please inform me prior to the start of class.

• **Monitor your own progress in class.** If you are struggling, confused, frustrated, in fear of failing, please make your problems known to me early in the semester. I will, as your instructor, do my best to help you succeed in this class. That is my commitment to you. If, however, you remain passive or silent about your problems until the last days of the semester, and if you don’t turn in assignments, papers, or take exams, I cannot assist you in saving your grade at the last moment.

• Your ability to actively participate in class discussions and readings will be greatly enhanced if you read the plays and textbook on pace with the class schedule.

• **All written projects must be typed, double-spaced, with 12-point font.**

• Any work not turned in will be assigned ZERO points rather than an F grade (i.e., an F on your final writing assignment could still be worth 125 points).

• **No work will be accepted via email or beyond the communicated deadline** (see course calendar) except under extraordinary circumstances acceptable to the instructor or based on prior written notification also acceptable to the instructor.

• **There are no make-up exams or written projects** without a written excuse and prior notification.

• Content for exams will be taken from lecture material, the films discussed in class, and the textbook.

• Review your student handbook for the university’s policy on academic dishonesty. **If you are caught cheating on any test or plagiarizing on any written assignment, the minimal penalty will be a zero and will go on your permanent record at Boise State.**

• I ask that you assist me in maintaining the best possible atmosphere for interaction and for learning: silence your cell phones; refrain from studying for other classes, or texting, tweeting, updating, and other content creation; put off eating those tasty snacks; nap with your eyes open.
Grading Criteria

- Short written projects: 50 points (05%)
- Class discussions, participation*: 100 points (10%)
- Writing assignment: 250 points (25%)
- Exams (3 @ 200 each): 600 points (60%)

**Total points possible:** 1000 points (100%)

**Course grading scale:**

- 900-1000 = A
- 800-899 = B
- 700-799 = C
- 600-699 = D
- 599 = F

*Note: Although the class is a large one, I take weekly note of the students who have and have not participated in class discussions over readings. Points are awarded based on my assessment of your engaged and consistent participation in class throughout the semester. Translation: I don’t award points just because you’ve spoken up in every class discussion; I do award points if you’ve demonstrated that you’ve read the material, that you’re mind is active and processing ideas, that you’re willing to risk expressing your thoughts.