

Common Course Outline

MCOM/HIST 150

Movies: History and Art

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

MCOM/HIST 150 – Movies: History and Art examines the history of film from its origin to the present. The course covers the development of film techniques, the evolution of various film genres, and international cinema. Students explore film's unique capacity to record and reshape history and its power to reflect and form public attitudes and social values.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. explain how film evolved as a 20th century art form and how film is currently positioned among other classic disciplines in the Humanities;
2. analyze how film has helped shape and reflect the ethics and values of our society;
3. assess the motion picture as a powerful art form and as a propaganda tool in comparison to other art forms in the Humanities;
4. differentiate among the production styles used by western and non-western film makers;
5. demonstrate a knowledge of filmmaking aesthetics and vocabulary;
6. identify the history, innovation, and social significance of films from an international perspective;
7. analyze the impact of technology on contemporary filmmaking and distribution;
8. evaluate films on the basis of direction, lighting, special effects, sound, cinema, foley, and overall presentational format;
9. explain the collaborative nature of motion picture production and describe the essential contributions of the producer, director, editor, screenplay writer, director of cinematography, and film score composer;
10. find, evaluate, use, and document information resources for film research;
11. differentiate between the roles of the director and the total filmmaker;
12. compare and contrast the utilization of color and different printing techniques in film and other classical art forms associated with the Humanities; and
13. explain how the use of body language and spatial composition as a staging technique differ in international film.

Major Topics

- I. Film language
- II. The early years and pioneers
- III. Evolution of the director and film style
- IV. International filmmaking through history
- V. Important film genres through history (Silent film, Film Noir, Soviet Montage, Italian Neo-Realism, French New Wave, Social Realism, Blaxploitation)
- VI. World government involvement in the evolution of film
- VII. Effect of important historical events on film (Immigration, Great Depression, WWI, WWII, Vietnam War, etc.)
- VIII. Role of sexism, racism and classism in film
- IX. Independent film versus major film studio production
- X. Impact of film on the audience
- XI. Film as entertainment and propaganda
- XII. Film studies and curriculum in schools

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

- Attendance and active participation in class discussions
- A minimum of two written examinations
- A minimum of one major written research assignment (minimum 750 words)
- A minimum of one graded research assignment measuring 5 of 7 general education objectives and worth at least 10% of course grade
- A minimum of one written review of a recent foreign film release (minimum 400 words)

Written assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This is an approved 3-credit General Education course in Arts and Humanities and is an elective for the Communication and Media Studies Area of Concentration. Please refer to the current CCBC Catalog for category-specific General Education criteria.