

**BROOKLYN COLLEGE
FILM ONE**

**FILM DEPARTMENT
SYLLABUS**

**JOHN BEATTY
SPRING 2016**

FILM.1101 LANGUAGE OF FILM 1 FQ9

9:30 AM - 1:10 PM Fridays

WE-214

Final exam is Friday May 20th 2016 from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (Be sure not to plan any flights that will cause you to miss the final)

SYLLABUS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Text Books:

Barsam, Richard and Dave Monahan *Looking at Movies* W.W. Norton and CO., NY 5th edition (You can use the 3rd or 4th Edition)

Giannetti, Louis *Understanding Movies* Pearson/Prentice Hall; Upper Saddle River, . NJ 13th edition (You can use the 10th, 11th or 12th edition)

Papers and Exams

There will be two quizzes, a final and a short (2-3 page) paper

Paper

The paper is to be submitted as a hard copy – no electronically transmitted papers are accepted. Papers are due on the assigned date. The paper should have on it your name, the course number and the term in which you are taking the course. Late papers (any paper which arrives after the due date) will be given a grade with no comments and there will be no discussion about the paper. Papers which arrive later than the next class meeting will lose one letter grade for each week they are late.

Plagiarism

Although the assignments are to be done without any reference to outside sources, any material which comes from an outside source MUST be cited. Failure to do so is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the paper and possibly the course. See the college Bulletin for rules about plagiarism.

Late Assignments

If the paper is turned in late it MUST be accompanied by a major functioning internal organ. (with DNA proof it is yours) This specifically excludes tonsils and appendix and in many cases the brain which is not necessarily a functioning organ or you wouldn't be worrying about late papers. You may in place of an internal organ submit the skin (which is more or less external) - as long as I get all of it.

Quizzes and Exams

There will be two quizzes (15 minutes) which will be in a short answer format (fill ins, true false multiple choice, identify)

THE FINAL EXAM IS MONDAY MAY 20th 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. YOU MUST BE ON TIME FOR THE FINAL. STUDENTS ARRIVING MORE THAN 15 MINUTES LATE WILL LOSE AN AUTOMATIC 20% OFF THEIR FINAL SCORE. STUDUENTS ARRIVING MORE THAN 30 MINUTES LATE WILL NOT BE ADMITTED.

Grades are computed as follows:

Final = 35%
Paper = 35%
Quiz 1 = 15%
Quiz 2 =15%
Total =100%

The Paper

An analysis of a scene in a film. The film you select must be one NOT shown in class nor in a language you do not speak fluently. The paper should discuss the way the director handles the opening, closing, first appearance of the main character or set piece. The paper is NOT to be descriptive, but is to be analytic.

Do NOT start your paper with "The film I am going to write about is _____" I will be able to figure that out when I read the paper. This is a lame opening and should be avoided like the plague.

The department has writing tutors who are in room 200 WEB. You should be absolutely certain to make an appointment with them and work with them on your paper. It will be helpful not only for this course but for any other course which requires a paper.

E-mails

If you contact me by e-mail (Profbeatty@hotmail.com) put your full name and course number on the e-mail. Names like "sexy dancer" are not on my roster. If they are not there I will not respond to the e-mail. Do NOT e-mail me asking me questions that are answered in the syllabus or the schedule of classes (e.g. "When is the final?") Learn how to look these things up. This is not grade school

Web Site

There is a web site for the course – <http://Johnbeatty.name> and from there, follow the links, or go directly to:

http://userhome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/anthro/jbeatty/COURSES/FILM1/fall_2013/main1.html

Attendance and Lateness

Departmental policy allows you two absences a term. Since classes meet only once a week, each absence means you have missed more than three hours of class time. Students who miss more than two classes for whatever reason will fail the course. Students are considered absent if they come more than 15 minutes late.

Cell Phones

If you have one, turn the damned thing off! If the phone goes off during class it is an automatic "F" in the course, plus expulsion from the college and a slow painful death. Your cell phone will also be destroyed. No joke.

The Course

This is an introduction to film studies which includes both history and analysis. The course is mainly interested in the visual aspects of film and less in the dialog. Any discussion about films should therefore avoid analyzing solely the spoken text. You can, to some degree, think of this as an art course. It would not hurt in the least to go visit art museums and look at paintings since there is a good deal of similarity in the analysis of a painting and what goes on in a single frame of a film. The major difference is that the motion picture is a string of many still photos (often referred to as "frames") and the relationships between those frames. You should never analyze a film as though it were a radio program.

During the course of the term we will be discussing the various techniques used by film makers to send messages to the audience. These include such visual things as camera placement, camera movement, use of lighting, color, set design, costuming, facial expressions, body language, composition of the frame, editing and so on. While the dialog is certainly of interest, it is not what makes film, film.

The course will start with the early films and show how new discoveries appeared over time. We will also look at specific aspects of film making (lighting, f-stops, lenses, composition, narration, etc.). The course is entitled "The Language of Film" and to some degree this is a course in the "grammar" of film and how film communicates with the audience.