

**BROOKLYN COLLEGE  
HISTORY OF THE MOVIES I**

**FILM DEPARTMENT  
SYLLABUS**

**FALL 2013  
J BEATTY**

FILM.2115 HISTORY OF FILM TO 1941  
2:15 PM- 5:55 PM  
M  
WE-214  
MQ2

The course examines this history of the movies from their beginning until 1941. It looks at artistic development, technical development and social history.

The final exam for the course is Monday , Dec 23 3:30 – 5:30 in room 214 WEB

**TEXT**

David A. Cook; 2003 A History of Narrative Film (Fourth Edition) Norton and Co.; NY; 1120 pp

**Recommended**

Mast, Gerald and Bruce F. Kawin (2011) *A Short History of the Movies*  
Longman, Inc. 784pp

Gomery, Douglas and Clara Pafort-Overduin (2011) *Movie History: A Survey*  
Routledge, NY NY 458pp

Thomson, David; 2012; *The Big Screen: The Story of the Movies*; Farrar,  
Straus and Giroux; 608 pp

Sklar, Robert (1994) *Movie-Made America: A Cultural History of American  
Movies* Random House, NY. 432 pp

**GRADES**

Grades are based on a paper and a final class participation.

The course covers the history of the movies from the beginning through 1940. Part II covers 1941 through today.

The course deals with both technological developments and social history and the impact these have had on film.

## **Papers and Exams**

There will be one paper and a final, equally weighted

### **Paper**

The paper will deal with some aspect of film history, from its beginnings through 1940. The paper needs to examine the ways in which some aspect of film history impacted the development of film. You should turn in a written topic to me no later than the 6<sup>th</sup> week of the course. The paper should be handed in no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the course.

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.

A general rule for me is “avoid footnotes”. If it is important enough, put it in the body of the paper. References should be cited parenthetically in the body of paper giving author, date and page # (Sklar, 1994, p 54) unless the author’s name appear in the text (e.g. “Sklar (1995 p 54) states.....”

A bibliography is needed once there are citations. These appear as they do in the syllabus under required and recommended texts. There are other approaches, but these are the simplest I know.

### **Plagiarism**

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 for the course as well. See the college Bulletin for rules about plagiarism. There is nothing wrong with citing sources, but the bulk of the work needs to be original. With luck there will be a writing tutor working for the department this term. You should make an appointment to meet with the tutor who will go over your paper with you and help you with the arguments and structure of the paper. There are no “re-writes”

## **Late Assignments**

If the paper is turned in late 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.

## **Exams**

The final exam for the course is Monday , Dec 23 3:30 – 5:30 in room 214 WEB

## **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](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.

### FILMS (VERY TENTATIVE)

Week	Film
1. Early shorts (Lumiere Melies, Edison, Porter)	<i>Shorts, Trip to the Moon</i> (1902) <i>Great Train Robbery</i> (1903) <i>Sherlock Jr.</i> (1924)
2. Griffith	<i>Musketeers of Pig Ally</i> (1912) <i>Broken Blossoms</i> (1919)
3. Russian influences	<i>Battleship Potemkin</i> (1925)
4. German expressionism	<i>Faust</i> (1926)
5. Sound	<i>Jazz Singer</i> (1927)
6. Academy Awards	<i>Wings</i> (1927)
7. Universal and the horror films	<i>Dracula/Frankenstein/Mummy</i> (1931)
8. Gangster films	<i>Public Enemy</i> (1931)
9. Musicals/Busby	<i>42<sup>nd</sup> Street</i> (1933)
10. Screwball Comedy	<i>It Happened One Night</i> (1934)
11. noir forerunner	<i>The Fury</i> (1936)
12. Disney 3 strip technicolor	<i>Snow White</i> (1937)
13. Studio system	<i>Gone with the Wind</i> (1939)
14. Special effects	<i>Thief of Bagdad</i> (1940)