

Montgomery County Community College
MSP 230
The Movies: Meanings and Methods
3-2-2

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The popular arts of “the movies” is a carefully prepared constructions of sights and sounds. This course focuses on learning to get more enjoyment and meaning from these products of the image industries. The course examines how meaning is created and communicated through film. Basic concepts and techniques in constructing and interrelating visual and aural images will be discussed in light of film and video technology and techniques. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Express orally and in writing, an appreciation of the art of visual story telling in cinema and television.	Class readings Class presentations Discussions Film examples	Discussion Boards Class Discussions Film analysis research paper Movie presentation
2. Describe the ways that the moving visual media create stories that portray the world.	Lectures Class readings Class presentations Discussions Film examples	Discussion boards Film analysis research paper Film analysis assignments Movie presentation

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Compare and contrast how meaning and value are constructed visually for film and TV storytelling.	Class readings Class presentations Discussions Film examples	Discussion Boards Film analysis research paper Film analysis assignments
4. Utilize vocabulary of technical and aesthetic terminology to converse about film and TV.	Lectures Class readings Class presentations Discussions Film examples Research paper drafts	Discussion boards Film analysis research paper Film analysis assignments Movie presentation
5. Discuss how "movies" made by different cultures deal with diverse issues using visual story telling techniques.	Lectures Class readings Class presentations Discussions Film examples Research paper drafts	Discussion boards Film analysis research paper Film analysis assignments Movie presentation
6. Demonstrate artistic expression through analysis and/or creation.	Class readings Class presentations Discussions Film examples	Film analysis research paper Movie presentation
7. Make aesthetic judgments about the construction of visual stories in films and TV storytelling based on established production criteria.	Lectures Class readings Class presentations Discussions Film examples Research paper drafts	Discussion boards Film analysis research paper Film analysis assignments Movie presentation

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
8. Discuss observations and thoughts concerning the techniques of visual storytelling used in moving visual media to others.	Class discussions Film analysis assignments Film analysis research paper Movie presentation Film examples	Film analysis research paper Discussion Boards Film presentation

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Director of Educational Effectiveness. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

INSTRUCTIONAL TOPICS:

1. Film experimentation and technology
2. Telling stories with light
3. Movie genres
4. Classical Hollywood
5. Mise-en-scene
6. Lighting and Cinematography
7. Editing
8. Story, plot and social context
9. Acting and directing
10. The producer and the business of movies
11. International masterworks
12. Documentary
13. Audio and music
14. Creating new genres, allegory and abstract filmmaking

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Barsam, R & Monahan, D (2025). *Looking At Movies*, 8th ed. Norton.

Houghton, Peggy, M. (2020). *APA: The Easy Way! 7th Edition*. Xanadu.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system including film links through Kanopy, Films on Demand and Swank.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: John Gallagher	Date: 6/1998
Revised by: Neil Goldstein and Allan Schear	Date: 7/22/2012
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 8/27/2012
Revised by: Neil Goldstein	Date: 5/15/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 8/9/2013
Revised by: Allan Schear and Gerald Collom	Date: 1/15/2016
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 6/01/2016
Revised by: Allan Schear/Therol Dix	Date: 9/7/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 11/1/2017
Revised by: Yaniv Aronson	Date: 4/15/2025
VPAA or designee Compliance Verification:	Date: 4/16/2025



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.