



ENGL312: The Film

Old Dominion University, Norfolk Campus
Fall 2011, Mondays, 7:10-9:50pm, BAL2019

Section: 30206

Course Websites:

- Course schedule, discussion, work submission, lesson plans, etc:
<http://engl312f12.courses.digitalodu.com> (or <http://bit.ly/engl312f12>)
- For textbook related materials: <http://www.wwnorton.com/movies>
- For open-book, online tests & gradebook: Blackboard
- You will be responsible for using a variety of other technologies and websites throughout the course!

Course Handbook/Syllabus

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Instructor Information

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Office Hours:

- Location: BAL2008
- M&T: 6:00-7:00pm
- W: 12:00-4:00pm (BAL2027)
- By Appointment: <https://tungle.me/rrodrigo>

Name: Jamie Henthorn

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- In BAL2027
 - T-Th: 8:00am-12:00pm
 - W: 4:00-8:00pm

Course Information

Course Description

Lecture 3 hours; 3 credits. Prerequisite: three semester hours in English. A multimedia course using slides, video cassettes, and 16mm films to increase appreciation of film as an art form, particularly as a narrative medium. Attention is given to all the elements of filmmaking (including directing, acting, writing, editing, visual composition, and music), especially as they contribute to the way films tell stories. After students become familiar with film techniques, they study eight to ten films for their narrative methods.

Course Outcomes

After participating in this course, students shall be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical and technological development of film as an art form and a cultural product.
- Identify the technical elements of a film and explain how those elements are used to stimulate different emotional responses from the audience and to illuminate the narrative.
- Describe the characteristics and representative examples of major genre films.
- Analyze several films to explain the techniques the filmmakers used to express their ideas and values.
- Write and speak confidently about your own as well as others' ideas.

Time Commitment

Please recognize that most college courses expect two to three hours of work outside the class, for every one hour in class. So, for a three credit hour class (during sixteen weeks) that would equate to three hours in class, and six to nine outside of class.

Course Materials

Required Materials

- Barsam, Richard, and Dave Monahan. *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film* (3rd ed.). New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2010. ISBN: 978-0-393-93279-9
- Gocsik, Karen, and Richard Barsam. *Writing About Movies*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2007.
 - Packaged with the textbook



- <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/film/movies3/writingaboutmovies.aspx>
- *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film (3rd ed.) DVD*. ISBN: 978-0-393-11540-6
- A college-level dictionary and a thesaurus, for example <http://www.m-w.com/>
- Access to the Modern Language Association style guide:
 - http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch04_o.html
 - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>
- **Various films to view on a weekly basis. I will NOT be providing access to all of these films. You will be responsible for tracking down your own copies to watch.** You may want to consider the following locations to access the films (most libraries have viewing stations from which to watch the films without needing to check them out):
 - **Netflix (a proprietary company):** <http://www.netflix.com/>
 - ODU Library: <http://www.lib.odu.edu/>
 - Norfolk Public Library: <http://www.npl.lib.va.us/>
 - YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/>
 - Google Video: <http://video.google.com/>

*I'll be honest, you will probably need to either get a **Netflix** account and/or plan to view the films with classmates.*

Required Technologies

Based on the type of projects you decide to submit, you may use other technologies than those listed below.

- Headphones for BAL2019 computers
- Access to a computer with an internet connection (preferably high-speed).
- Access to a television or computers with a DVD player (or some other method to watch the films).
- My.ODU Account to access Blackboard
- WordPress account at the course website: <http://bit.ly/engl312f12>
- For textbook related materials: <http://www.wwnorton.com/movies>
- MS Word or other word processor that can export to PDF:
 - Open Office: http://www.filehippo.com/download_openoffice/
 - Google Docs: <http://docs.google.com/>

Communication Policies

Methods of Communication

- Email: One-on-one contact will be through your official ODU email.
- Wordpress Blog— All instructional materials and official announcements will be posted in the course blog. Most of your homework will be submitted in the course blog as well blog.
- Blackboard: Grades will be posted in Blackboard.

Communicating with the Instructor

If you have any questions, concerns, or other general comments about the class, the best way to communicate with the instructor is via email. The instructor reserves the right to take up to 48 hours to respond to your communication. The instructor may have to do some grading, look something up, or may just be taking care of his or her own life requirements. Therefore, do not put off your homework to the last minute, have a question, and then expect the instructor to respond prior to the deadline.



Announcements

Official course announcements, especially those that mark official changes to the syllabus and/or course schedule and assignments deadlines, are made via the course blog. Individualize announcements and messages will be sent via email from to your official ODU email. Be sure to check your email and the course announcements page regularly.

Course Policies

Statement of Accommodation

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. One element of this legislation requires that all qualified students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. I would like everyone to know that I am willing to make any reasonable accommodation for limitations due to any disability, including learning disabilities. If you have or think you have a disability, including a learning disability, please make an appointment with an advisor at the Office of Educational Accessibility as soon as possible. They can assist you with appropriate accommodations for you in your classes. Please see ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility, and then me, to discuss any special needs you might have. Information about ODU's Office of Educational Accessibility:

- Web address: <http://studentaffairs.odu.edu/educationalaccessibility/>
- Phone number: 757-683-4655

Attendance, Participation, and Withdrawal Policies

Attendance is based on presence. Please take participation seriously; since this class is a community of thinkers who will discuss and collaborate on ideas, your lack of participation hurts others as well as yourself. So please participate in class on time and have your homework completed by the assigned deadline. I will not withdraw you from the course; therefore, if you wish to be withdrawn from the course, you must initiate withdrawal procedures.

Project Format

Please follow the essay/project submission guidelines as outlined in each major project assignment prompt. If you do not follow the submission guidelines, I will be unable to grade your work.

Disposition of Projects

Students should keep their own projects for at least one semester. Among other things, any student who appeals a course grade will need to submit copies of all graded course papers with the appeal.

Completion Policies

Due dates for assignments are listed in the course schedule and on assignments; **I will not accept late work.** Because you will be responding to other students' work in this class, your timely completion of assignments affects others in the course. Although it is possible that the technology can fail, it is ultimately your responsibility to submit the work, in the method requested, by the due date. (If there is an institutional, server side, technology error, I will learn about it. If no one is able to submit his or her work, a new deadline will be assigned. However, if only a few people were unable to submit the work, it is not an error on the instructor's, institution's, or district's side.) If you are having difficulty submitting an assignment, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor *before* the assignment is due. Otherwise, you risk receiving no credit for the assignment.

The Public Nature of Writing and Issues of Confidentiality

Part of becoming a good writer is learning to appreciate the ideas and criticisms of others, and in this course our purpose is to come together as a community of writers. Remember that you will often be expected to share your writing with others. Avoid writing about things that you may not be prepared to subject to public scrutiny or that you feel so strongly about that you are unwilling to listen to perspectives other than your own. This does not mean that you are not entitled to an opinion but that you adopt positions responsibly, contemplating the possible effects



on others. In particular, please do not write about any criminal activity you may have knowledge of—as a witness, as a victim, or as a perpetrator. This may seem like an odd thing to caution you about, but if you were to write about such activity, I may be legally required to report it to the authorities.

Safe Classroom Environment Statement

This classroom will be a safe learning environment for everyone individual insofar as I am able to ensure that outcome. This means I will treat all students with the respect they deserve, and in turn, I expect respect to be given to the instructor and to every individual in class. *Disagreement does not constitute disrespect.* We all have different points of view, different personal values, different life experiences, and different personal preferences that we bring with us to the classroom. I call these differences diversity, and diversity is welcome in the academic area. This is the stuff of which great discussions are made, and potentially, this diversity adds interesting dimensions to our interpersonal relationships. Consequently, I expect all students to respect the rights and needs of their classmates. Students cannot feel safe to express themselves without the assurance that their ideas, attitudes, and beliefs will be treated with respect.

Therefore, I ask that all student monitor their language and ways of talking about people, views, issues, and situations. For example, sexist, racist, or homophobic language will not be tolerated. Students may encounter ideas of which they have never hear or of which they disapprove or feel uncomfortable. I do not hope to change people's ideas, but I do hope to introduce students to ideas that will require them to think critically. If you feel you or others are not being treated respectfully, please see me immediately. Consult the Student Handbook for college policies regarding sexual harassment and other abusive behaviors.

Some of the films we will be seeing and discussion will be R-Rated. Because any work of art is *sui-generis* (i.e., one of a kind), no alternative films will be assigned. If this information seems too radical for you at this time, I suggest you drop the course and take one of the many alternatives.

Learning Centered Environment Statement

Everyone does not learn in the same manner; therefore, it is important that we construct an environment that facilitates learning for the greatest number of individuals. In other words, try not to engage in behaviors that disturb the learning environment. Disturbing behaviors include (but are not limited to):

- acting disrespectfully to classmates or the teacher,
- talking out of turn (without raising a hand to be acknowledged),
- blurting out irrelevant comments,
- making comments that are off-topic and demonstrate you are not paying attention,
- criticizing, laughing at, or putting down other students,
- making comments or acting in way that promotes ignorance or stupidity rather than intelligence and competence,
- poking, prodding, or otherwise disturbing another student,
- sleeping or otherwise indicating disengagement from classroom activities,
- walking around the room unnecessarily,
- leaving classroom without permission from the teacher,
- behaving in an unsafe manner in the classroom,
- failing to pay attention and follow directions,
- letting various electronics ring or make other distracting noises, and
- eating and/or drinking (except bottled water) during class time.

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. If a student is disruptive, an instructor may ask the student to stop the disruptive behavior and warn the student that such disruptive behavior can result in withdrawal from the course. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process



Online Learning Environments

We will be using a variety of technological, mostly web-based, applications for academic use in ENGL312, The Film, section 30206, Fall semester 2012. By default, many of these technologies are open to the public for the purpose of sharing your work with the larger Internet community.

To use the web-based application responsibly please observe all laws and ODU policies that are incorporated into the Codes of Conduct and Academic Integrity. Some specific aspects of law and policy that might be well to remember are prohibitions against copyright infringement, plagiarism, harassment or interferences with the underlying technical code of the software. Some resources to remind yourself about ODU's policies as well as a digital document about laws on copyright and fair use:

- ODU's [Monarch Creed](#) and [Honor Code](#)
- [MCCCD Copyright Guidelines](#)

As a student using the web-based applications certain rights accrue to you. Any original work that you make tangible belongs to you as a matter of copyright law. You also have a right to the privacy of your educational records as a matter of federal law and may choose to set your privacy settings to private and only share with the instructor and your classmates. Your contributions to the various web-based applications constitute educational records. By contributing to the web-based applications, and not taking other options available to you in this course equivalent to this assignment that would not be posted publicly on the Internet, you consent to the collaborative use of this material as well as to the disclosure of it in this course and potentially for the use of future courses.

A Note on Plagiarism

Definition: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.

Council of Writing Program Administrators

Plagiarism is stealing; it is presenting work as your own that is not exclusively your own. Plagiarism can include turning in part or all of someone else's writing as your own or using information from another source without giving credit. The consequences of plagiarism are severe, including failure of the assignment, probable failure for the course, disciplinary referral to the Dean, and possible expulsion from the institution. Whenever you borrow a phrase, sentence, paragraph—or even an idea stated in your own words—from any outside source without giving credit, you have plagiarized.

Some common examples of plagiarism in academic assignments are:

- the use of paraphrase or quotes from another writer without documentation,
- copying all or parts of another writer's paper,
- having another writer do the paper, and
- purchasing another writer's paper.

In cases where the instructor has carefully considered the evidence and concluded that a student has deliberately plagiarized, the instructor may use any, and all, of the following:

- A written warning to the student that s/he has violated the academic code;
- Lowering the assignment or course grade;
- Giving discretionary, additional assignments; and
- Course failure.

Additionally, the instructor may recommend to the department chair and dean any of the following:

- Academic probation;
- Suspension from the college; and
- Expulsion from the college.

If you have any questions about how to acknowledge someone else's words or ideas, or you have a question about whether a source needs to be acknowledged, come talk to me. Please also remember that any writing that you turn in for credit in this course must be written for this course.



Grading Policies

Assignment Distribution

Attendance & Participation	15%
Homework	20%
Outside Classroom Assignment	5%
Individual Narrative Analysis*	5%
Mid-Term*	5%
Collaborative Genre Presentation & Paper*	10%
Final Exam*	15%
Research Paper (multiple pieces & deadlines)*	15%
Collaborative Genre Remix Trailer*	10%
TOTAL	100%

***You must submit “final” versions of all major projects to pass the class.**

General Grading Standards

The following descriptions explain how grades are assigned to individual assignments in my courses:

A: “A” work is outstanding in every respect, given the requirements and stated expectations for a specific assignment.

B: “B” work achieves a level significantly above the standards for a specific assignment.

C: “C” work meets the requirements of an assignment in all respects, but does not rise above those requirements.

D: “D” work is worthy of a passing grade but does not meet all requirements for the assignment.

F: “F” work fails to meet the course requirements for a minimal pass.

Grading Scale

Grades are determined according to the following scale:

- A (95-100%)
- A- (90-94.9%)
- B+ (87-89.9%)
- B (83-86.9%)
- B- (80-82.9%)
- C+ (77-79.9%)
- C (73-76.9%)
- C- (70-72.9%)
- D+ (67-69.9%)
- D (63-69.9%)
- D- (60-62.9%)
- F (59% or below)

Incomplete Grades

A course grade of “Incomplete” will be given only in extreme situations because the sad story is that most students who request incompletes never finish the course. Please visit the following website for more information:

<http://www.odu.edu/ao/registrar/grades/incompletes/igrades.shtml>.

Grading Response Time

The instructor requests that students allow the instructor approximately one week from the date of submission (original suggested deadline, not if the assignment is turned in late), to post a grade, or provide feedback, on any homework assignments, two weeks for major projects and exams. (Note: the instructor will make every effort to provide faster turn around time-however, sometimes faster turn around is not possible).



Course Schedule/Calendar

- This schedule is an outline of the course and is subject to change. All changes will be announced in the class announcements are of the course blog.
- Unless otherwise stated below, or in the assignment prompt, all work is due *before* the beginning of the class period. Do not wait to submit online work at the beginning of class.

August 28: Get Started

September 4: Labor Day, No Class

September 11: Studying & Analyzing Film

- read: Chapter 1
- due: 15/85% chapter 1 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 1 tutorial
- due: Chapter 1 tutorial questions
- read: Chapter 2
- due: 15/85% chapter 2 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 2 tutorial
- due: Chapter 2 tutorial questions
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *Juno* (2007)
- due: post-screening writing
- read: *Writing About Movies*: pp. 1-15

September 18: Narrative

Shelley absent; Jamie with facilitate class

- read: Chapter 4
- due: 15/85% chapter 4 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 4 tutorials x3
- due: Chapter 4 tutorial questions x3
- pre-screening writing
- watch: *Stagecoach* (1939)
- due: post-screening writing
- watch: assigned short film from disc
- due: read: *Writing About Movies*: pp. 15-25; 29-41

September 25: Mise-en-Scene

- read: *Writing About Movies*: pp. 41-53
- due: Individual Narrative Analysis Paper
- read: Chapter 5
- due: 15/85% chapter 5 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 5 tutorials x4
- due: Chapter 5 tutorial questions x4
- Multimedia DVD Quizzes from website x3 (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *Sleepy Hollow* (1999) OR *American Beauty* (1999)
- due: post-screening writing



October 2: Sound

- read: Chapter 9
- due: 15/85% chapter 9 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 9 tutorial
- due: Chapter 9 tutorial questions
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *Citizen Kane* (1941)
- due: post-screening writing

October 9: ODU Fall Holiday

October 16: Cinematography: Part 1

- due: open-book, online mid-term
- read: Chapter 6
- due: 15/85% chapter 6 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 6 tutorials
 - Lighting
 - Shot Types and Implied Proximity
 - Camera Angles
- due: Chapter 6 tutorial questions
 - Lighting
 - Shot Types and Implied Proximity
 - Camera Angles
- due: Chapter 6 Multimedia quizzes from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
 - Lighting
 - Shot Types and Implied Proximity
 - Camera Angles
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: your Favorite Film (as pre-coordinated with the instructor)
- due: post-screening writing

October 23: Cinematography: Part 2

- read: Writing About Movies, pp. 25-29
- watch: Chapter 6 tutorials
 - Point of View
 - Zoom and Moving Camera Effects
 - The Moving Camera
 - Focal Length
- due: Chapter 6 tutorial questions
 - Point of View
 - Zoom and Moving Camera Effects
 - The Moving Camera
 - Focal Length
- due: Chapter 6 Multimedia quizzes from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
 - Point of View
 - Zoom and Moving Camera Effects
 - Focal Length
- due: post-screening writing of your Favorite Film



October 30: Acting

- read: Chapter 7
- due: 15/85% chapter 1 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 7 tutorials x2
- due: Chapter 7 tutorial questions x2
- due: Chapter 7 Multimedia quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *Stella Dallas* (1937) or *Million Dollar Baby* (2004)
- due: post-screening writing
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *Snapshot* (from textbook DVD)
- due: post-screening writing
- due: Research Paper: Scene Selection

November 6: Types of Movies

Shelley absent; Jamie will facilitate class

- read: Chapter 3
- due: 15/85% chapter 3 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 3 tutorial
- due: Chapter 3 tutorial questions
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: group selected genre film (as agreed upon with the instructor in advance)
- due: post-screening writing
- due: Research Paper: Narrative Analysis

November 13: Editing

- due: Genre Presentations (10 minutes)
- due: Collaborative Genre Paper
- read: Chapter 8
- due: 15/85% chapter 8 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- watch: Chapter 8 tutorial x5
- due: Chapter 8 tutorial questions x4
- due: Chapter 7 Multimedia quiz from website x3 (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *City of God* (2002)
- due: post-screening writing
- due: Research Paper: Mise en Scene & Sound of Scene

November 20: Film History & International Film

Shelley absent; Jamie will lecture and facilitate class

- read: Chapter 10
- due: 15/85% chapter 10 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *Oldboy* (2003); Korean with subtitles
- due: post-screening writing
- due: Research Paper: Cinematography of Scene (workshop in class)



November 27: Technologies & Production

- read: Chapter 11
- due: 15/85% chapter 11 diagnostic quiz from website (submit to rrodrigo@odu.edu; section: F12)
- due: pre-screening writing
- watch: *Sin City* (2005)
- due: post-screening writing
- due: Research Paper: Annotated Bibliography of 5 resources (2-3? scholarly)

December 4: Wrapping Up Class

- due: prepare questions, concerns, and notes for Final Exam
- due: complete draft of Research Paper
- due: continue working on Genre Remix Trailer

December 7: Final Exam (not finals week)

- due: Research Paper
- due: Final Exam, Part 1: open-book, online
- due: study for Final Exam, Part 2

December 11: Celebration of Learning (finals week)

- due: Genre Remix Trailer
- due: Collaborative Genre Remix Trailer Reflective paper

All homework assignments are due by the deadline, **no exceptions.**

Other Important Dates

- August 27 – Tuition Deadline
- September 4 – Deadline to drop and add
- September 4 – Deadline to receive 100% refund
- September 5 – Withdraw period begins (grade “W”)
- September 11 – Deadline to withdraw and receive 50% refund
- November 6 – Last day to withdraw without an instructor’s signature (grade “W”)
- December 8-14 –Final Exams

Point your browser to <http://www.odu.edu/ao/registrar/calendars/academic/index.shtml> for additional dates.



Handbook/Syllabus Contract Form

Student Responsibilities

You are expected to contribute positively to the learning environment of the classroom by:

- taking responsibility for your own success in class;
- reading, reviewing, and referring to the course handbook/syllabus for all pertinent information;
- reading, reviewing, and referring to the ODU College Catalog for college policies (<http://ww2.odu.edu/ao/affairs/about/publications.shtml>);
- actively asking questions and seeking out help from the instructor;
- participating regularly in this course in the various virtual environments;
- keeping a copy of all assignments until the end of the semester; and
- immediately reporting all e-mail/computer problems to the professor and it is your responsibility to complete the course assignment and activities even in the face of computer failure.

Instructor Responsibilities:

- The instructor reserves the right to require proctoring or validation of students' academic work at the instructor's discretion.
- The instructor reserves the right to change or modify course policies, materials, or deadlines in response to student feedback or unforeseen circumstances. Students will be notified by the instructor of any changes in course requirements or policies.
- The instructor requests that students allow the instructor **48 hours** to respond to student emails or other forms of contact.
- The instructor will attempt to be available during weekdays, however, as balance between family and work is important in everyone's lives, the instructor reserves the right to be unavailable on weekends.
- The instructor requests that students allow the instructor one week from the date of submission (original deadline, not if the assignment is turned in late), to post a grade, or provide feedback, on any homework assignments, two weeks for major writing projects. (Note: the instructor will make every effort to provide faster turn around time-however, sometimes faster turn around is not possible)
- The instructor may be "out-of-the-office" for extended periods of time, and requests that students understand that this situation may occur and allow for such inconveniences (however, the instructor will always attempt to email and/or post an announcement to the class about any such circumstances)

Student Agreement

The signature below, as well as attendance and participation in this class, signifies that the student has agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this Handbook/syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the class. The instructor may drop a student if the student fails to complete the work; however, it is the student's responsibility to drop the course if they do not wish to continue. If the student does not drop the course by the appropriate date the student will receive an F.

(Be sure to ask the instructor any questions concerning the handbook/syllabus before signing below.)

Student's Name, Printed

Date