

PALOMAR COLLEGE  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR  
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

       x      Transfer course                             x      A.A. degree applicable course  
(check all that apply)

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:**                      CINE 120 FILM CRITICISM

**UNIT VALUE:** 3                                      **MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS:** 48

**BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS:**                      Appropriate language skills

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

**PREREQUISITE:**                                      None

**COREQUISITE:**                                      None

**RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:**                      None

**SCOPE OF COURSE:**

A study of the writing of major film critics. The work of Kael, Sarris, Youngblood, Farber, and others will be considered in the attempt to formulate aesthetic standards for cinema. Motion picture viewing assignments will be made in connection with the readings. CSU; UC

**SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Students will:
1. Identify a wide ranging number of aesthetic criteria with which to review and evaluate films.
  2. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the language of film and the foundations for writing about this art form through analyzing and evaluating selected motion pictures.
  3. Compare and contrast the value systems inherent in selected films.
  4. Identify and define how film influences contemporary society.

**CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:**

- I. A Brief History of Film
  - A. American
  - B. International
  - C. The Industry: How It Works
    1. The Producers
    2. Agents
    3. The Modern Studio Distribution System

II. The Phases of Filmwork

- A. Preproduction
  - 1. Casting
  - 2. Story
  - 3. Funding
- B. Production
  - 1. Direction
  - 2. Photography
  - 3. Performance
  - 4. Set Design
- C. Post Production
  - 1. Editing
  - 2. Sound design
  - 3. Marketing

III. The Major Critics

- A. Newspaper
  - 1. Los Angeles Times and New York Times
  - 2. Syndicated Criticism
- B. Television
  - 1. Siskel and Ebert
  - 2. Short Review Formats
- C. Magazine
  - 1. Popular Magazines
  - 2. Serious Film Magazines
- D. Books on Film Theory

IV. The Major Genres

- A. The Western
- B. Science Fiction
- C. Horror Films
- D. Youth Films
- E. War Films
- F. Action/Adventure
- G. Musicals
- H. Romance
- I. Comedy
- J. Others

**REQUIRED READING:**

Bywater, Tim and Thomas Sobchack. An Introduction to Film Criticism. White Plains: Longman, 1989.

Sight & Sound

Film Comment

American Film

**SUGGESTED READING:**

Murry, Edward. Nine American Critics. New York: Unger, 1975.

Phillips, William H. Analyzing Films. New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1985.

Schatz, Thomas. Hollywood Genres. New York: Random House, 1981.

**REQUIRED WRITING:**

Students will write five critical essays of approximately 300 words each. These will be based on their experience of having viewed five motion pictures assigned by the teacher.

**OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

Five motion picture assignments, each approximately 2 hours in length, are required to be seen either at the Palomar Film Series, at local theatres, or on a home VCR. Reading assignments of film periodicals (Sight & Sound; Film Comment; American Film) and in the text will be given weekly. Students will write five critical essays of approximately 300 words each. Lecture notes should be studied for the exams. These will account for 2 hours for each 1 hour in class. Lecture notes should be studied for the exams.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:**

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

Lecture will be enhanced by extensive viewing of selected films, each chosen for a particular issue stressed in the outline of the class. Discussion is essential to the effectiveness of the class.

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

**GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS** (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

The five critical essays will make up 80% of the final grade

A final exam will count for 20% of the final grade.

**IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON (S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  Number of times course may be taken for credit: 1

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Robert Sheppard, extension 2444

SIGNATURES ON FILE