



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	FILM
Course Number:	105
Descriptive Title:	Media Aesthetics
Division:	Fine Arts
Department:	Film/Video
Course Disciplines:	Film/Video
Catalog Description:	This course introduces students to close analyses of film and television texts and includes broad questions of form and content, aesthetics and meaning, and history and culture. Students explore the diverse possibilities presented by the cinematic art form through an examination of a wide variety of productions, national cinemas, and film movements. Topics include modes of production, narrative and non-narrative forms, visual design, editing, sound, genre, ideology and critical analysis.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English C1000 or equivalent
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 2016
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	fall 2016
General Education: ECC	Area 3 - Humanities
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	Area C1 - Arts and Humanities - Arts: Arts, Cinema, Dance, Music, Theatre
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	Area 3A - Arts
Term:	

Other:	
CalGETC:	
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Aesthetic Elements of the Cinematic Arts At the end of this course, students will be able to identify aesthetic elements of the cinematic arts such as cinematography or editing and their use in screen storytelling. SLO #2 Analyze a Film Text At the end of this course, students will be able to analyze a film text through the formal elements of its production design. SLO #3 Influence of New Technologies At the end of this course, students will be able to describe the influence of new technologies on the aesthetic choices available to filmmakers of a given era.
Course Objectives:	1. Critically analyze film and television as a technology, business, cultural production/cultural artifact, entertainment medium and art form. 2. Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, interpret, and write about film and electronic media using film-specific language. 3. Demonstrate visual literacy through the application of the analytical tools of categories, theories and ideologies to understand the cinematic arts' complex role and function in society. 4. Demonstrate recognition, description and analysis of formal aesthetics elements of the cinematic arts. (i.e.: Cinematography, Editing, Mise-en-scene, Sound) 5. Prepare analytical essays regarding the technical, aesthetic, and cultural aspects of the cinematic arts.
Major Topics:	I. Creativity, Business and Technology (6 hours, lecture) A. Film as an art form B. Film as a business C. Commercial vs. art cinema II. Film Form (6 hours, lecture) A. Formal elements B. Patterns C. Genre III. Narrative Systems (6 hours, lecture) A. Hollywood and Classical/Continuity Storytelling B. New Wave alternatives: disjunctive editing and montage C. Modern strategies: The Pulp Fiction effect

	IV. Film Language I (9 hours, lecture) A. Mise-en-scene B. Cinematography V. Film Language II (9 hours, lecture) A. Editing B. Sound C. Music VI. Alternatives to Hollywood and the Classical Style (9 hours, lecture) A. Documentary/Reality TV B. Experimental/Nonnarrative C. Animation Arts: Traditional/Digital VII. Major Historical Movements (6 hours, lecture) A. Silent cinema: domestic and international B. Sound cinema: domestic and international C. European Art Cinema D. Cinema in the age of television E. Cinema in the digital age VIII. Style as Formal System (3 hours, lecture) A. Formal elements and patterns B. Popular narrative style paradigms C. Alternatives to narrative: experimental and nonfiction
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	3) Skills demonstration
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	Shoot a photograph of a building, statue, work of art in your community and then write a short paper on the aesthetic qualities of the subject under study.

Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a 3- to- 5-page paper, analyze the camera work in <i>Black Swan</i> and how it contributes to the theme of imperfection moving to perfection.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In a short oral presentation, screen selected clips from at least 3 films that demonstrate the aesthetics of film noir lighting, romantic comedy lighting, and horror lighting and how these styles typify these genres.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Essay Exams, Homework Problems, Multiple Choice, Objective Exam, Other Exams, Presentation, Term or Other Papers, True/False
Instructional Methods:	Demonstration, Discussion, Group Activities, Guest Speakers, Lecture, Multimedia presentations
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer questions, Observation of or participation in an activity related to course content (such as theatre event, museum, concert, debate, meeting), Required reading, Study, Written work (such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Bordewell, David; Thompson, Kristin; Smith, Jeff. <u>Film Art: An Introduction</u> , ISE ed., McGraw-Hill, 2023.
Alternative Texts:	
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English 1A/C1000 or equivalent

Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	English language skills, oral and written, at college level. Write 5-7 paragraphs of 200-300 words with topic sentences and supporting details, 2 of these paragraphs to be written in class. Read and respond to short readings or one book-length work of appropriate lexile (900 to 1000). In assigned writing, use a variety of sentence types and edit them for correct grammar, appropriate word choice, and accurate spelling.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	Kevin O'Brien
Date:	03/05/2015
Original Board Approval Date:	10/19/2015
Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Kevin O'Brien
Date:	03/17/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	06/26/2025
Effective Term:	FA 2026