

Common Course Outline

MCOM 114

Film Appreciation: An Introduction to Film Studies

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

MCOM 114 – Film Appreciation: An Introduction to Film Studies examines the art, technology, theories, methods and language of film from around the world. Students learn to analyze film and film techniques in terms of montage, *mise-en-scène*, cinematic space and time, the image, soundtrack, script, history, culture and political climate.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or (ESOL 042, ESOL 043 and ESOL 044)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. identify film as an art form, as well as film's relationship to other art forms;
2. explain the significance of both narrative and non-narrative formal systems of film;
3. define and use vocabulary appropriate to film study;
4. analyze film style in terms of image, sound, editing and aesthetics;
5. describe film style as a formal system;
6. analyze films critically;
7. examine historical, national and critical perspectives as it applies to film;
8. compare and contrast films from different cultural and ethnic groups; and
9. identify the history, innovation, and social significance of films from an international perspective.

Major Topics

- I. Significance of film form
- II. *Mise-en-scène*
- III. Cinematography
- IV. Eisenstein's Theory of Montage
- V. Use of sound
- VI. Film vocabulary
- VII. Early experiments with motion and film
- VIII. Role of the cinematographer
- IX. Cinema and kinetic symbolism
- X. Movement in film

- XI. Use of music
- XII. Film style of performers
- XIII. Function and responsibility of the director
- XIV. Auteur theory
- XV. Importance of costumes, space, actors, language and visual saturation to film
- XVI. Characteristics of realistic, formalistic, avant-garde and documentary narratives
- XVII. Contributions of screenwriter to filmmaking
- XVIII. Major films and filmmakers
- XIX. Motif, symbol, metaphor, allusion and homage
- XX. Roles of culture (including gender, class, sexual orientation, race, etc.), religion and ethnicity in the viewer's understanding of a film
- XXI. Critical theory

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

- Attendance and active participation in class discussions
- A minimum of two written examinations
- A minimum of one major written assignment (minimum 750 words)
- A minimum of one group project related to the planning and production of a media presentation
- A minimum of one written review of a recent foreign film release (minimum 400 words)

Written Assignments: Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is a Mass Communications elective.

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