

MCOM 150 / HIST 150/CMNS 150

Movies: History and Art

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

MCOM 150 – Movies: History and Art: is a course that examines the history of motion pictures from their origin as a late 19th century curiosity to their present status as powerful form of mass communication reflecting the impact of many art forms within the Humanities. The course covers the development of film techniques, the evolution of popular movie genres including, but not limited to the western, horror, science fiction/fantasy, and animated features. Students explore film's unique capacity to record and reshape history, and its power to reflect and form public attitudes and social values. Included are screenings of important films representing international film production. NOTE: MCOM 150 is the same as HIST 150 and CMNS 150. Earn credit for one only.

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. explain how film evolved as a 20th century art form;
2. analyze how film has helped shape and reflect the ethics and values of our society;
3. assess the motion picture as a powerful art form and as a propaganda tool;
4. differentiate among the production styles used by western and non-western film makers;
5. demonstrate a knowledge of filmmaking aesthetics and vocabulary;
6. identify the history, innovation, and social significance of films from an international perspective;
7. analyze the impact of technology on contemporary filmmaking and distribution;
8. evaluate films based on direction, lighting, special effects, sound, cinema, foley, and overall presentational format;
9. explain the collaborative nature of motion picture production;
10. find, evaluate, use, and cite information resources for film research;
11. differentiate between the role of the director and the total filmmaker; and
12. demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology for the study of film.

Major Topics

- I. Film language
- II. The early years and pioneers
- III. Evolution of the director and film style
- IV. International filmmaking through history
- V. Important film movements through history such as Silent film, Film Noir, Soviet Montage, Italian Neo-Realism, French New Wave, Social Realism, Blaxploitation

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- VI. World government involvement in the evolution of film
- VII. Effect of important historical events on film such as Immigration, Great Depression, WWI, WWII, Vietnam War, etc.
- VIII. Role of sexism, racism, and classism in film
- IX. Independent film versus major film studio production
- X. Impact of film on the audience
- XI. Film as entertainment and propaganda
- XII. Film studies and curriculum in schools

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- active participation is a critical part of this course and is expected of all students
- two written examinations
- one project related to the planning and production of a media presentation
- one 3-5 page research assignment which addresses 5 of 7 General Education Outcomes worth at least 10% of course grade
- one written review of a recent foreign film release (minimum 400 words)

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Arts and Humanities. One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes. This course is approved for Global Education programs.

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