*2022-2023*
# *Introduction to Film*
*ENGFLM 0400--3 credits*

**Description:** ENGFLM 0400 is a basic course on the visual arts that offers students a broad introduction to the medium of film while inviting conversations about new media, television, and film's connection to other arts, including photography, painting, theater, and web video. The course teaches students with no background in media studies how to analyze media in terms of art, industry, and culture. The class will consider such issues as: the process of contemporary film production and distribution; the nature of basic film forms; selected approaches to film criticism; comparisons between film and the other media; genre; auteurism; marketing; diversity of representation. Other required courses in Film and Media Studies concentrate on the language of film and its component parts, so Introduction to Film concentrates less on form and more on the cultural elements of film.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Grading:** Grading should include a variety of assignments. Short writing assignments, exams (in-class or take-home), and a final paper are required; group presentations, quizzes, blogs, annotated bibliographies, screening notes, and video essays are optional additional approaches. The required final paper must address film in terms of art, industry, and culture with at least one outside source cited.

**Textbook:** ENGFLM 0400 must not concentrate on the technical language of cinema. While some understanding of film form will be necessary, focus on allowing formal concepts (mise-en-scène, editing, etc.) to emerge in discussions of representations of film (space and time, for instance). Many of these textbooks include several chapters or a section concentrating on form (mise-en-scène, cinematography, sound, editing). Either omit assigning those chapters, assign only certain pages, or deemphasize their technical content since this material is the subject of the core required course (Film Analysis) for the major and minor.

Approved:
- *Introduction to Film Studies* by Jill Nelmes (recommended with supporting materials supplied)
- *American Film/American Culture* by John Belton
- *Anatomy of Film* by Bernard Dick
- *Thinking about Movies* by Peter Lehman
- *Engaging Cinema* by Bill Nicholls
- *Film as Social Practice* by Graeme Turner
- *Film and Television Analysis: An Intro to Methods, Theories and* Approaches by Harry Benshoff (frequently used as college level but some content may not be appropriate for your school)

Not allowed:
- *Film Art* by Bordwell and Thompson
- *The Film Experience* by Corrigan and White

**Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences**
# College in High School

**The Objectives for Introduction to Film determine that students taking this course should be able to:**

- analyze a variety of films as examples of visual art and write critically about them from various thematic and cultural perspectives
- construct a critical position in evaluating films in relation to popular reviews, scholarly essays, and industry categories
- demonstrate a critical understanding of the role film plays in society as a visual art, an industry, and a complex set of ideological constructs

**The following topics can be covered in the University of Pittsburgh ENGFLM 0400 course. Italicized topics are required:**

- *Fictional Narrative Cinema (Classical Hollywood Narration and European art cinema model)*
- *Industrial History and Contemporary Model of Post-Studio era*
- *Documentary Forms*
- Other "Basic" Film Forms (experimental, postmodern, etc.)
- *Animation*
- Film Acting
- Stardom
- *Film/ Nation / Transnational*
- *Film Auteurs (which can carry over multiple weeks)*
- Film and Television

- Film and New Media
- Film and Other Arts (i.e. photography, painting, theater)
- Film Adaptation from Literature
- Issues in Film Criticism (multiple weeks: apparatus, psychoanalysis, queer, formalism, feminist, cultural studies)
- Fan Cultures or Audiences
- *Issues in Culture/Society*
- *Race*
- *Class*
- *Gender*
- Sexuality
- *Writing about Film*
- *Film Genre (multiple weeks)*

Required Paper: All Intro to Film students must produce a paper (minimum one outside source) before the end of the course that answers or addresses three required elements that align with the Objectives for the course. A rubric will be supplied. All final papers must address in some way:

1. Media as Expressive Form: demonstrate in writing an understanding of possible thematic or ideological elements in a film or other media as these elements are constituted by the media's style as art or performance that invites diverse critical readings across disciplines, its generic affiliation(s), and/or its narrative
2. Media and Industrial Concerns: demonstrate an understanding of the market forces (budget category [i.e., blockbuster or indie], national movement or context, stars, special effects, director, intended and actual audience, etc.), production concerns or context (marketing, distribution, exhibition, reception [reviews]) or technological platforms that shape crucial decisions in the media's construction
3. Media and Culture: demonstrate in writing a historical understanding of media as cultural constructs that are shaped by or critically negotiating the social moment in which they are produced

**Additional course credit information for ENGFLM 0400:**

<u>At the University of Pittsburgh:</u>
Course credits can count in three ways: toward the requirements for a major or minor, toward elective requirements, and/or toward the total number of credits needed to graduate. For this course:

- Major/minor: This course can count as an elective in the Film and Media Studies major and minor
- Electives: Individual Schools and Colleges of the University (such as Engineering, Arts & Sciences, Business, Information Sciences, and so on) have different policies about elective credits and may count this course as an elective. Students interested in studying at the University of Pittsburgh should contact their School/College of interest to see if this course would be counted
- Graduation: This course's credits count toward the number of credits needed for graduation

*Academic Integrity:* All College in High School teachers, students, and their parents/guardians are required to review and be familiar with the University of Pittsburgh's Academic Integrity Policy located online at https://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code.

*Grades:* Grade criteria in the high school course may differ slightly from University of Pittsburgh standards. A CHS student could receive two course grades: one for high school and one for the University transcript. In most cases the grades are the same. These grading standards are explained at the beginning of each course.

*Transfer Credit:* University of Pittsburgh grades earned in CHS courses appear on an official University of Pittsburgh transcript, and the course credits are likely to be eligible for transfer to other colleges and universities. Students are encouraged to contact potential colleges and universities in advance to ensure their CHS credits would be accepted. If students decide to attend any University of Pittsburgh campuses, the University of Pittsburgh grade earned in the course will count toward the student grade point average at the University. At the University of Pittsburgh, the CHS course supersedes any equivalent AP credit.

*Drops and Withdrawals:* Students should monitor progress in a course. CHS teacher can obtain a Course Drop/Withdrawal Request form from the CHS office or Aspire. The form must be completed by the student, teacher and parent/guardian and returned to teacher by deadlines listed. Dropping and withdrawing from the CHS course has no effect on enrollment in the high school credits for the course.