



ENGLISH 110: FILM STUDIES

Class Locations: Online, Moodle Classroom

Class Times: TBA/Thursdays 11:30-12:50pm

Number of Credits: 3

Class CRN: 26426

Instructor Name: Lee Keeler

Email: KeelerL@linnbenton.edu

Office Hours: I will be holding virtual office hours at my LBCC email address in Google Hangouts on Fridays from 1 to 3pm. Otherwise, email me with any issues at any time.

Statement on the Syllabus's Importance:

Get to know this syllabus! It is vital that you have an understanding of all of the assignment dates that are coming this quarter. This document is your lifeline to passing this course.

Course Description and Prerequisite: ENG 110: Film Studies "Explores the power of film to shape and reflect culture and ideology; raises questions about film and its relationship to self, others, and social values; studies film genres and styles, aesthetics, film history, film as a collaborative medium, Hollywood, independent and international cinema, techniques and grammar of film, and major film theories. 3 class hours/week, 3 credits." A "C" or better in Writing 121 is strongly recommended for success in this class.

Course Overview:

This course will introduce you to the academic study of film and explore academic analysis of cinema. The goal of this course is to widen your understanding of cinema, breaking down the primary elements of film from technical aspects to cultural influence. Given our online arena, we will be watching film clips as well as some full-length films, sharing critique and analysis along the way. This will indeed be a fun class, but this is by no means an excuse to simply watch movies for credit. You will be expected to provide active, critical feedback and to engage with the class material with depth and meaning.

Let us be perfectly clear: all opinions, within academic reason, are welcome to flow from your mind here in the form of essays, workshops, and in-class participation. We will address each other with respect and dignity, giving classmates ample time to express themselves and gradually perfecting the art of critical listening.

As we get to know each other in the class, be sure to focus on *communication* - especially with your instructor. If you have any special needs or are having a tough time, just let me know.

***Online Updates:** Since this class will be entirely online, your participation is vital to your ability to succeed in this course. There will be checklists for every weekly Unit and the three major Parts of this class - but in the end, *the work will be your responsibility*.

This can be tough when faced with the distractions of home, so I strongly recommend that you find a special time/place in which to do your work: maybe away from your Playstation, out on the back deck, wherever you can be productive while practicing social distancing.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who complete this course will be able to:

- Analyze the major compositional elements of film, including mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, and sound.
- Analyze the major elements of narrative film, including plot, character, setting, and theme.
- Analyze the major conventions used in select film genres.
- Apply key vocabulary terms used in film studies.
- Interpret and evaluate films based on their compositional and narrative elements.

Course Materials:

We will be using various chapters throughout the quarter from this free online textbook courtesy of the University of Arkansas Press:

Moving Pictures: An Introduction to Film

<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/moving-pictures-an-introduction-to-cinema>

Class Work:

Mon-Wed: “Floating” Class

Thursday: 11:30am-12:50pm

You are required to use the following for this class:

- 1.) A Zoom Account (Personal or LBCC)**
- 2.) Your LBCC Email (Do not use personal email)**

*NOTE: Each week you will participate in a “floating” online Unit that features an intro lecture, reading materials and links that will prepare you for our later live class on Thursdays at 11:30am. These units will be posted on Monday morning and the prep work must be finished no later than Wednesday night so you’re ready for class on Thursday.

Our Thursday classes will involve breakout discussions of the reading and/or that week's exercises. Remember, we are creating a dialogue to analyze and discuss these works.

You will occasionally have a film that you will need to watch over the weekend, but this happens, it will also fold into the following week's "floating" class.

Please take a look at the class schedule on this syllabus and make a note of the due dates for these assignments

Film Screenings - We will be watching about six films in this class, one for each week for our last six weeks. Three of these will be "Class" screenings, meaning they will happen during Thursday class time, plus an additional 30-45 minutes. Two of these films will be "Home" screenings, meaning that you can watch them during the week at your leisure.

Lectures - Many weeks there will be mandatory slides and corresponding audio that you are required to observe and take notes on. Just click on the audio file and follow along with the slides, kind of like one of those books on tape that you may have had as a kid.

Reading - You are expected to keep track of the weekly chapters as we read them in this class and to take active, thorough notes in your study time. We'll be going over terminology and concepts that will require your involvement and comprehension of the material.

Weekly Exercises - These will often reflect and extend upon the concepts in the reading, with *Moving Pictures* and other texts. Exercises will include in-class writing, workshop notes and potential quizzes.

Analysis Breakdowns - You will have two two-page papers that will ask you to cover either technical or narrative elements of film. These will be graded "in the middle" in terms of points: worth more than the weekly exercises, but less than the Final Analysis Essay.

Exams - There will be one Final that you will get the week of finals to be turned in during the final exam class.

Final Analysis Essay:

There will be one major paper that you'll write in this class that will need to include terminology from your textbook readings. You will be provided with criteria for this assignment as the quarter progresses. Your ability to get these in on time and within the assigned criteria will greatly determine the outcome for your final grade:

*Revisions: with this paper, you will have the option to turn in one revision draft as a chance to improve your grade, which you will turn in at a date that we both agree upon. You must let me know if you're planning on doing a revision. .

**Papers will be turned in via a Google Doc that is assigned to you and shared with you for the term. I encourage you to compose your papers on a separate doc, then when you're ready to submit, copy/paste it into your Google Doc.

Grading:

Overall Breakdown:

Class Participation and In-Class Practicum - 25%

Analysis Breakdowns - 25%

Final Analysis Essay - 25%

Final Exam - 25%

Letter Grades by Percentage:

- *A = 90-100% Excellent Work*
- *B = 80-89% Good Work*
- *C = 70-79% Average Work*
- *D = 60-69% Poor Work*
- *F = 0-59% Failing Work)*

Important Course Policies and Campus Resources:

*(Use this section as a kind of "everything else" list of things that students should know about, both course-specific and campus-wide. Below I've listed some of the things I use on my syllabi, but please adapt yours accordingly. **Note that the Center for Accessibility Resources and Non-Discrimination Policy sections are REQUIRED; please use the exact language here for both of those sections.**)*

- **No-Show Policy:** Unless prior arrangements have been made with me, registered students not attending the first two class sessions will be withdrawn.
- **Attendance Policy:** Missing class means missing valuable instruction time, which means that you give yourself the best chance to do well by attending every class on time and in its entirety. The grading breakdown above indicates how many absences are permitted for final grades of A, B, and C. There is no distinction between an excused absence and an unexcused one. If you do miss a class, you should contact me or a trusted classmate to find out what you missed. Likewise, if you miss a class when an assignment is due, you will need to contact me to make arrangements for getting me the work. If you are absent for an in-class activity that is collected for grading, it cannot be made up.
- **Punctuality Policy:** Plan to arrive to class on time and stay for the entire period. If you arrive more than 5 minutes late, you will be marked late. More than 3 lates will equal one absence.

- **Withdrawing from the Course:** Typically the Friday that concludes Week 7 is the last day for students to withdraw from a course; check the academic calendar for this term to confirm that date. If you are still enrolled after this point, you must receive a grade. Be aware that withdrawing from a course can impact your financial aid, so be sure to consult with the [Financial Aid Office](#) if you have questions before withdrawing.
- **Phones in the Classroom:** Please silence your phone and put it in your pocket or bag. Think of it as a test. Can you go 80 minutes without touching it or looking at it? If there is a legitimate need to have your phone out, please talk to me before doing so.
- **Laptops/Tablets in the Classroom:** I prefer that students do not use these devices in the classroom unless we're in the computer lab, but if you'd like to, please talk to me before doing so.
- **Policy on Late Work:** Policies for late work will be included with assignment instructions.
- **Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:** Presenting someone else's ideas in writing as if they are your own is plagiarism, and it is a serious academic offense. Any plagiarized elements in your writing will result in, at minimum, a zero for the assignment and, at maximum, automatic course failure. If you ever borrow information from an outside source to put in an essay, you must cite it properly. If you're not sure how to do this, please ask me for help before submitting your paper. Once you submit a paper, the policy mentioned above will be enforced.
- **Moodle:** Important course materials—such as assignment instructions, class agendas, and your midterm and final grades—will be posted on our course site on Moodle. An easy way to get to Moodle is to start at the [LBCC homepage](#), and then click on the yellow Moodle logo at the top right. Alternatively, you can go directly to [the sign-in screen](#). If you've never logged-in to Moodle before, you will first have to claim your account at <https://identity.linnbenton.edu/>. If you have any problems logging, please contact the Student Help Desk; they can be reached at 541-917-4630 or student.helpdesk@linnbenton.edu.
- **LBCC Student Email:** Please make sure that you check your student email regularly throughout the term. Should I need to contact you, I will be emailing your student account. You can find information about accessing your LBCC email here: <http://www.linnbenton.edu/roadrunner-mail>
- **The LBCC Writing Center:** The LBCC Writing Center (WH-200) is a fantastic free resource for students. As explained above, you will be required to visit the WC to earn a

grade of A or B in this class. Get more info about the WC here:

<http://www.linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center>

- **The LBCC Library:** The LBCC library is located on the first floor of Willamette Hall. Get more information here: <http://library.linnbenton.edu/home>
- **Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR):** LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations, but are not yet registered with CFAR, please go to <http://linnbenton.edu/cfar> for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.
- **Non-Discrimination Policy:** Everyone in the LBCC community has the right to think, learn, and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill, and we will honor that right in our classroom.
- **Public Safety/Campus Security:** In an emergency, call 911. Also, call LBCC Campus Security/Public Safety at 541-926-6855 and 541-917-4440.
- **Student Printing:** LBCC uses a pay-to-print system called GoPrint that charges .10 cents per printed page. If you do not have a GoPrint account, you can sign up for one in any college computer lab. You can find more information at <http://www.linnbenton.edu/computer-resources-and-labs>.
- **Our Classroom's "Golden Rule":** Let's maximize learning by minimizing distractions from it. Focus!

Weekly course calendar (subject to change with advanced notice):

DATE	FLOATING	THURSDAY
WEEK 1	-Unit 1: Cinematic Language -Reading: Moving Pictures Pgs. 48-63 -Media Samples -Message Board Activity	-Class Introductions -Syllabus Review -Lecture and Discussion on Cinematic Language
WEEK 2	-Unit 2: Mise-en-Scene -Reading: Moving Pictures Pgs. 64-93 -Media Samples	-Lecture and Discussion: Mise-en-Scene -Analysis Breakdown Paper 1 Assigned -In-Class Breakdown Exercise
WEEK 3	-Unit 3: Cinematography -Reading: Moving Pictures Pgs. 116-135 -Media Samples	-Lecture and Discussion: Cinematography -In-Class Breakdown Exercise

WEEK 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unit 4: Editing -Reading: Moving Pictures Pgs. 163-179 -Media Samples -Message Board Activity -Analysis Breakdown Paper 1 Due 10/21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture and Discussion: Editing -Analysis Breakdown Paper 2 Assigned
WEEK 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unit 5: Sound -Reading: Moving Pictures Pgs. 190-216 -Media Samples -Message Board Activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture and Discussion: Sound
WEEK 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unit 6: Representation in Cinema: African American Voices -Reading: Moving Pictures Pgs. 280-284, 302-310 -Lecture: African American Voices -Analysis Breakdown Paper 2 Due 11/4 -Final Analysis Paper Criteria Assigned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Class Screening: <i>Do the Right Thing</i> -Message Board Discussion
WEEK 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unit 7: Dystopia and the Future -Assigned Reading TBA -Home Screening: <i>Akira</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lecture: Dystopia and the Future -Message Board Discussion
WEEK 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unit 8: Comedy *Guest Speaker TBA: <u>Questions Required</u> -Assigned Reading TBA -Lecture: Comedy -Outline of Final Analysis Paper Due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Class Screening: <i>Planes, Trains and Automobiles</i>
WEEK 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unit 9: Modern Documentaries -Assigned Reading -Lecture: Modern Documentaries -Home Screening: <i>Dogtown and Z-boys</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THANKSGIVING -Optional Message Board Discussion
WEEK 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Unit 10: Representation in Cinema: Feminist Voices -Assigned Reading TBA -Lecture: Feminist Voices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Class Screening: <i>Cleo 5 to 7</i> -Message Board Discussion
WEEK 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Final Analysis Paper Due -Final Exam 	