

Introduction to Film Studies

ARTH019056
Credits: 0.5 units / 5 hours

Course Description

This course will introduce students to the world of cinema and film. The course will define film as an art, explain how film tells stories, discuss the mechanics of making an effective film, summarize the different genres of film, and discuss how films have changed over the years. The course is an appreciation course and requires no previous background in theater or drama. This course is only available online.

Course Objectives

When you have completed this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the ways in which film differs from other arts.
2. Explain what is meant by analyzing film.
3. Summarize the early history of film as an art form.
4. Identify the theme in a film and place films into appropriate categories of primary concern.
5. Discuss the importance of characters in films and identify different kinds of characters.
6. Examine plots, motifs, leitmotifs, allegories, symbols, metaphors, and irony in films.
7. Evaluate films as stories.
8. Appreciate different cinematographic techniques.
9. Understand the importance of editing in a film.
10. Explore the impact of music on a film.
11. Contrast stage acting with film acting and note the different types of actors.
12. Compare the styles of well-known directors such as Alfred Hitchcock and David Lynch.
13. Explain the importance of genre films and note the conventions of genre.
14. Recognize basic genres of films.
15. Comprehend the significance of remakes, sequels, and franchises to the film industry.
16. Trace the development of censorship and regulation of the film industry, noting its impact on the art of film.

Course Outline

Unit 1: The Essence of Film

Lesson 1: What Film Means

Lesson 2: Pioneers and Early Techniques

Unit 2: Films as Stories

Lesson 3: Theme and Motif

Lesson 4: Story Elements and Structure

Lesson 5: Characters in Film

Lesson 6: Symbols and Irony

Unit 3: The Mechanics of Film

Lesson 7: Cinematography

Lesson 8: Editing and Music

Lesson 9: Acting

Unit 4: Auteurship and Genre

Lesson 10: Auteurship

Lesson 11: Genre

Unit 5: The Changing Landscape of Film

Lesson 12: Remakes, Sequels, and Franchises

Lesson 13: The Production Code

Lesson 14: Films a Student Should See

Course Materials

(available through Follett virtual bookstore at <http://highschool.nebraska.bkstr.com>)

Textbook: *The Art of Watching Films*, 8th ed. (ISBN: 9780073386171)