

## Film 104 American Film

Syllabus  
Santa Barbara City College  
Summer 2004

**Instructor:** Stephen W. DaVega, M.F.A.  
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**Class Times:** Tu/Wed/Thur: 1:00-4:50pm/BC FORUM  
**TA/Readers:** Stephen Stasiuk/ Freesia Pearson

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**INTRO:** This class is an introductory course on American film focusing on the evolution, history and aesthetics of American Cinema as well as its impact on our culture. The course will study classic and contemporary films as forms of popular entertainment and as works of cinematic art, including various Hollywood genres and independent films.

**ASSIGNMENTS/ TESTS:** Written work will consist of:

1. Quizzes. [50pts]
2. Mid-term- Multiple choice, short essay. [100pts]
3. 2 Analytical Papers- The analytical paper should be between 5-7 typed pages and be based on the films viewed during the course. Papers will be due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. [100pts per paper]
4. Final exam- Multiple choice, essay. [100pts]
5. Participation- Participation during class discussion/lecture is expected. [50pts]
6. Extra Credit- Organized/well kept note book on films/lectures [25pts]
6. TOTAL=500pts (Total Possible 525 with Notebook)

**NOTE:** The midterm and final exams will be based on class lectures, assigned reading and the scheduled films.  
**NOTE:** Attendance affects your grade. If you miss 2 class meetings, your grade will be dropped an entire grade. To be counted present you must be here the ENTIRE class meeting.

**GRADES:** Grades will be based on attendance, participation and all the assigned written work (i.e. assignments, papers midterms and final exam). Poor attendance will result in being dropped from the class or a lowering of your grade. Late papers will NOT be accepted. Students with poor attendance will be dropped. Plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" grade.

**TEXT:** *UNDERSTANDING MOVIES* / Louis Giannetti.- 10<sup>th</sup> Edition ( ISBN0-13-189098-0)

**READINGS:** Readings listed in syllabus are to be read/completed by the date scheduled in syllabus.

**Schedule of Films and Chapter Readings:**

Note: Order of/ film selections are subject to change.

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Week 1:	June 21	REVIEW and DISCUSSION/ Syllabus/American Film/Academics TEXT: None FILMS: <u>Eadweard Muybridge- Motion Studies</u> <u>Origins of Cinema I: JackandtheBeanStalk/ Life of An American Fireman (Porter)</u> <u>LandMarks of Early Film: The Kiss (Dickson), Lumiere Brothers Swingers (1996)</u>
	June 23	REVIEW and DISCUSSION TEXT: Chap 1 (pp 1-46) and Chap 2 (pp 47-97) FILMS: <u>Melies Trip to The Moon (Melies 1902)</u> <u>The Great Train Robbery (Porter 1906)</u> <u>D.W. Griffith Bio/ Adv. Of Dolly, BofA Nation, Intolerance</u> <u>The Story of The Movies</u> <u>Phantom of The Opera (Julian 1925) Excerpts from-</u>

The General (Keaton 1927)

June 24

REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chapter 3 (pp 99-139)  
FILMS:

The Jazz Singer (Crosland 1927)- Excerpts from  
Metropolis (Lang 1927)- Excerpts from  
Scarface (Hawks 1932)

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Week 2

June 28

REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chap 4 (pp 141-216)  
FILMS:

Gold Diggers of 1933 (Leroy 1933) –Excerpts from  
Modern Times (Chaplin 1936)  
StageCoach (Ford 1939)

ASSIGNMENT: hand out of Question for first paper

June 30

REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: None  
FILMS:

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (Capra 1939)  
Maltese Falcon (Houston 1941)

July 1

REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chap 5 (pp 217-254)  
FILMS:

Song of Russia – Excerpts from  
Meshes of The Afternoon (Daren 1943)  
The Miracle (Rossellini 1952)  
Singin in the Rain ( Donen/Kelly 1952)

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Week 3

July 5

**REVIEW for MIDTERM- HOLIDAY**  
TEXT: Chapter 6 (pp 255-304)  
FILMS:

**This is Cinerama (1952) Excerpts from**  
**High Noon (Zinneman 1952)**  
**The Wild One (Benedek 1953)**

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July 7

**MIDTERM**  
TEXT: None  
FILMS:

The Wild One (Benedek 1953)-cont.  
Rebel without a Cause (Ray 1955) –Excerpts from  
On the Waterfront (Kazan 1954) –Excerpts from

July 8

REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chapter 7 (pp307-348)  
FILMS:

From Here to Eternity ( Zinneman 1953)

ASSIGNMENT: **First paper Due**/Hand out of questions for second paper

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Week 4:

July 12

REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chap 8 (pp 349-388)  
FILMS:

The Searchers (Ford 1956) -Excerpts from  
North by Northwest (Hitchcock 1959)- Excerpts from  
Shadows (Cassevettes 1959)-Excerpts from

Some Like it Hot (Wilder 1959)

July 14                    REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: None  
FILMS:  
    Spartacus (Kubrick 1960)  
    Cleopatra (Malkiewicz 1963)-Excerpts from  
    Bonnie and Clyde (Penn 1968)-Excerpts from  
    The Wild Bunch (Peckinpah 1969)- Excerpts from  
    Easy Rider (Hopper 1969)

July 15                    REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chap 9 (pp 389-426)  
FILMS:  
    BadLands (Malick 1973)

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Week 5:                July 19                    REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chap 10 (pp 427-471)  
FILMS:  
    Nashville (Altman 1975)

July 21                    REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: None  
FILMS:  
    Annie Hall (Allen 1977)  
    Sweet Sweetback's Baad Asssss Song (Van Peebles 1971)

July 22                    REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chap 11 (pp 473-509)  
FILMS:  
    Star Wars (Lucas 1977) -Excerpts from  
    Flash Gordon, And the Death Ray from Mars Excerpts from  
    Hidden Fortress (aka Kakushi toride no san akunin) (Kurosowa  
    1958) Excerpts from  
    Jaws (Spielberg 1976)

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Week 6                July 26                    REVIEW and DISCUSSION  
TEXT: Chap 12 (pp 511-547)  
FILMS:  
    The Manchurian Candidate (Frankenhimer 1962)

July 28                    REVIEW for FINAL  
FIILMS:  
    Taxi Driver (Scorsese 1976)  
ASSIGNMENT: **Second paper due**

July 29                    **FINAL**

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No matter how good teaching may be, each student must take the responsibility for his own education.

-- John Carolus S.J.