



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: THEA

Course Title: Introduction to Film

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 1023 X51

Credits: 3

Course Description

Designed to develop the analytical skills necessary for understanding the motion picture - not only as an art form, but as a tool for the statement of ideas. Explores the visual and aural elements employed by movie-makers to influence audiences. Studies context--the historical, social, political, cultural, and artistic situation which produced the film and how it reflects ourselves and our society. Combines lecture, screening, and demonstration with critical discussions of assigned readings and films. Requires a weekly lab.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Jonathan Ventura

Student Learning Outcomes

1	Delineate differences between film as an art form and film as entertainment;
2	Explain how film functions to manipulate an audience into varying sensations;
3	Describe how the historical, social, political, cultural, and artistic situation which produced the film reflects ourselves and our society;
4	Discern and articulate a film's theme;
5	Explain the interaction of the elements of film to create meaning in a film.

Course Materials and Texts

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Grading Information:

Discussion Participation

14 weeks (x 20 points each) 280

Textbook Quizzes

1 "How to Use Inquizitive" quiz 10

10 Reading Quizzes (x 21 pts each) 210

Film Study Questions

13 films (x 15 points each) 195

Exams

Exam 1 100

Exam 2 100

Exam 3 105

1000 points total

Grading Scale:

Points Needed	Grade Earned
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930-1000	A
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900-929	A-
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870-899	B+
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830-869	B
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800-829	B-
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770-799	C+
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730-769	C
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700-729	C-
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670-699	D+
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630-669	D
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600-629	D-
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Assignments:

Discussion Participation (14 weeks x 20 points each = 280 pts)

Participation is worth a significant portion of your grade and is critical to understanding the class content. Each week during the pre-recorded lecture videos, there will be occasional prompts to invite participation. These prompts are usually open-ended, and they will help me to know what concepts are

being understood and which points need additional clarification. To complete the prompt, respond on the discussion thread on Canvas.

Why participate in class? Students retain course material easier if they are actively involved with their own learning by asking and answering questions, and participating in in-class activities.

You will have a study guide available on Canvas for every element of film we discuss (Filmmaking, Screenplay, etc.). You can take notes directly on the study guide and upload your study guide to Canvas at the end of each unit. I will review your study guide and offer extra credit (5 points each week) if it is filled out completely.

Textbook Quizzes (10 quizzes x 21 points each = 210 points) (1 "How To Use Inquizitive Quiz" x 10 pts)

After reading each assigned chapter of the text you will take a quiz to prepare you for the lecture over that information for the coming week.

The textbook quizzes will be taken through W.W. Norton's InQuizitive platform. The links for each quiz will be posted on Canvas.

(From the W.W. Norton website) InQuizitive is a formative, adaptive learning tool that improves student understanding of important learning objectives. Students receive quiz questions based on how well they understand the content, and the engaging and game-like elements motivate them as they learn.

InQuizitive is adaptive in three ways:

1. Students get the help they need when they need it. Students who have read their assigned reading and have a solid grasp of the material will complete an InQuizitive activity more quickly than those who need help with the content.
2. Students receive more questions on the learning objectives they're struggling with most.
3. Students receive easier questions if they're struggling, or harder questions if they've shown they're ready for them.

Instructions for taking the quizzes will be posted on Canvas

There are ten quizzes:

Looking at Movies	due Jan 17
Film Form	due Jan 17
Elements of Narrative	due Jan 24
Mise-en-scene	due Jan 31
Cinematography	due Feb 14
Editing	due Feb 28
Sound	due Mar 21
Acting	due April 4
Film History	due April 11
Types of Movies	due April 18

Film Study Questions (13 films x 15 points each = 195 points)

Each week you will watch a film for class which illustrates the element being discussed that week. This will help you learn about a variety of films and filmmakers. This will also help you understand how filmmakers use various elements of film to communicate particular messages and themes. The films are available for free through the UVU streaming library, which can be accessed off-campus.

Fill out the study guide as you are watching the weekly film. The study guide contains all the questions that will appear on the quiz for that particular film. After viewing the film, take the “Film Study Questions” quiz on Canvas. Each quiz contains a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

You can refer to your study guide and the film itself to answer all the questions. The questions follow the progression of the film, with the first question coinciding with the opening scene(s) and the later questions coinciding with the ending of the film. All questions are due before the first day of class the following week. Since the films are available at any time, if you wait until the night before the questions are due, you are responsible for any problems that may arise.

The film study quizzes serve several purposes. On the one hand, they test your knowledge of the film to make sure you are keeping up with the weekly film viewing. Additionally, they help you engage critically with the films by inviting you to reflect on themes and techniques and their connection with the course material.

Exams (2 mid-terms = 100 pts each; 1 final exam = 105 pts)

The exams will be taken through InQuizitive, the same platform used for the textbook quizzes. The exams consist of a minimum of 50 questions each. The number of questions will fluctuate though with the adaptive nature of InQuizitive.

The exams are not timed and can be paused and resumed as often as needed (including being broken up across several days). The exams are also open-book and open-note.

While exams can be paused and resumed, they must be submitted by the due date. The final exam will be made available during finals week.

Additional Instructions

Taking a Textbook Quiz or Exam with the Online Textbook

1. Click on the link in Canvas for the assigned quiz
2. The link will open the appropriate quiz within InQuizitive
3. At your own pace, answer the questions that appear
4. Adjust the confidence slider higher or lower for each question. A higher confidence score grants your more points for each correct question, but can lower your points for an incorrect answer
5. In order to receive a grade, you must answer a minimum number of questions (20 questions for each quiz, 50 questions for each exam)
6. Your final grade is determined by how close you are to the target score. So if the target score for the quiz is 1500 points, anything higher than 1500 receives full credit. If after answering the

minimum number of questions your score is below the target score, you can keep answering additional questions to raise your overall score

7. InQuizitive has several thresholds for scoring (Level 1, Level 2, etc.). Once those thresholds have been reached, your scoring will never go below that threshold.

If you have any problems with a quiz or an exam, do the following steps in order:

Contact W.W. Norton tech support at <https://wwnorton.com/tech-support>

At the bottom of that page is a link to “Submit Support Ticket.”

Email the instructor

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Click here to enter text.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Jan 6-10 Intro, Course Overview

Intro Lecture and Discussion

Jan 13-17 Looking at Movies and Film Form

Read Chapter 1: Looking at Movies

Chapter 1 Quiz

Read Chapter 2: Film Form

Chapter 2 Quiz

Film Form lecture and discussion

Watch Jurassic Park and The Making of Jurassic Park

Jurassic Park Quiz

Jan 20-24 Elements of Narrative

Read Chapter 4: Elements of Narrative

Chapter 4 Quiz

Elements of narrative lecture and discussion

Watch Casablanca

Casablanca Quiz

Jan 27-31 Mise-en-scène 1

Read Chapter 5: Mise-en-scène

Chapter 5 Quiz

Mise-en-scène 1 lecture and discussion

Watch Umbrellas of Cherbourg

Umbrellas of Cherbourg Quiz

Feb 3-7 Mise-en-scène 2

Mise-en-scène 2 lecture and discussion

Watch Dune, Part One

Dune, Part One Quiz

EXAM 1: Film Form, Elements of Narrative, and Mise-en-scène due Feb 7th

Feb 10-14 Cinematography 1

Read Chapter 6: Cinematography

Chapter 6 Quiz

Cinematography 1 lecture and discussion

Watch The Red Shoes

The Red Shoes Quiz

Feb 17-21 Cinematography 2

Cinematography 2 lecture and discussion

Watch The Social Network

The Social Network Quiz

Feb 24-28 Editing 1

Read Chapter 8: Editing

Chapter 8 quiz

Editing 1 lecture and discussion

Watch Little Women

Little Women quiz

March 3-7 Editing 2

Editing 2 lecture and discussion

Watch Smoke Signals

Smoke Signals quiz

March 10-15 SPRING BREAK

March 17-21 Sound 1

Read Chapter 9: Sound

Chapter 9 quiz

Sound 1 lecture and discussion

Watch A Quiet Place

A Quiet Place quiz

March 24-28 Sound 2

Sound 2 lecture and discussion

Watch O Brother, Where Art Thou

O Brother, Where Art Thou quiz

EXAM 2: Cinematography, Editing, and Sound due March 28th

March 31 - April 4 Acting

Read Chapter 7: Acting

Chapter 7 quiz

Acting lecture and discussion

Watch The Farewell

The Farewell quiz

April 7-11 Film History (US)

Read Chapter 10: Film History

Chapter 10 quiz

Film history (US) lecture and discussion

Watch Rear Window

Rear Window quiz

April 14-18 Types of Movies/Genres

Read Chapter 3: Types of Movies

Chapter 3 quiz

Types of movies/genres lecture and discussion

Watch Jaws (extra credit)

Jaws quiz (extra credit)

FINAL EXAM Available online during finals week. The exam is administered through Canvas and is online only.

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) **is permitted** in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas
- Fine tuning your research questions
- Finding information on your topic

- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts
- Checking grammar and style

The use of generative AI tools is **not permitted** in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or content that you put into a Teams/Canvas chat
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments

You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.