

Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

ENGL 225 Introduction to Film

Student Email Policy

Dakota College at Bottineau sends official communications to students at their campus-assigned email address and not to other email addresses. Students will not receive information the college sends if they do not check their DCB email or do not forward their email to a provider they prefer. The instructor communicates course information to students at the same campus assigned email address and does not receive email from any other email providers.

Course Prefix/Number/Title:

ENGL 225 Introduction to Film

Number of credits:

3

Course Description:

A general introduction to film studies, including analysis of narrative and stylistic elements of films.

Pre-/Co-requisites:

none

Course Objectives:

In English 225 students will learn to:

- recognize some of the variety of narrative and stylistic conventions used in film since its beginnings.
- analyze and write about film with the concepts and terminology film scholars use to write about film for academic writing situations.

Instructor:

Gary Albrightson

Office:

Thatcher Addition 2207

Office Hours:

10:00 – 10:50 Tues and Thurs, 1:00 – 1:50 Mon Wed Fri, and also by appointment

Phone:

701 228 5602

Email:

gary.albrightson@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

Classroom/Online delivery

Textbook(s):

Bordwell and Thompson. Film Art, 9th ed. McGraw Hill

Course Requirements:

This course studies film from its origins to the present. Students who may be offended by mature themes or by adult language and images should be aware that some of the films to be screened and discussed may have R ratings. However, during this class all students will also learn that neither sex nor violence is depicted in scripted film.

Essays: These essays will be written in steps using a process approach to writing. Failure to produce the required written words for each step of the process will prevent the final draft from earning any points. Final drafts will be graded on content, organization, style, and Edited Standard Written English, with MLA 8 format required to cite information used and to create a works cited list.

- An abecedarian essay of at least 500 words will be written on a movie to be assigned by the instructor.
- Keyword essays of at least 500 words will be assigned during the semester. These essays will use evidence-based argument to analyze cinematic and story features of Classical Hollywood Cinema and alternatives to Classical Hollywood Cinema screened in class.
- For the final, an essay will be written in class discussing story and cinematics in a film screened during the final exam period.

Quizzes/tests: Multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, or short answer quizzes may be given on all reading assignments.

The final grade is based on total points earned on in class writing, graded quizzes/tests, the abecedarian essay, the keyword essays, and the essay to be written during the final examination period.

Tentative Course Outline:

- Early film: George Melies, the Lumiere brothers, and Thomas Edison
- Silent movies and the emergence of classical Hollywood cinema 1910 through 1930s
- Classical Hollywood cinema in the films of the 1940s and 1950s
- Classical Hollywood cinema in the films of the 1960s and 1970s
- Classical Hollywood cinema in the films of the 1980s and 1990s
- Classical Hollywood cinema in the films of the 1990s and the 21st century
- Alternatives to classical Hollywood cinema Julian donkey boy and Breathless

General Education Goals/Objectives:

- Demonstrates effective communication
- Demonstrates ability to create and analyze art; evaluate aesthetics; and synthesize interrelationships among the arts, the humanities, and society

Relationship to Campus Theme:

Explore the DCB campus theme—nature, technology, and beyond—by analyzing the cinematics and story of an animated film.

Classroom Policies:

Work posted late earns half credit; work posted a week or more after the due date will earn no credit.

Academic Integrity:

The discussion of plagiarism below comes from the Council of Writing Program Administrators.

“In instructional settings, plagiarism is a multifaceted and ethically complex problem. However, if any definition of plagiarism is to be helpful to administrators, faculty, and students, it needs to be as simple and direct as possible within the context for which it is intended.

***Definition:** In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.*

This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers. Most current discussions of plagiarism fail to distinguish between:

submitting someone else’s text as one’s own or attempting to blur the line between one’s own ideas or words

and

those borrowed from another source, and carelessly or inadequately citing ideas and words borrowed from another source.

Such discussions conflate *plagiarism* with the *misuse of sources*.

Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.” (<http://www.wpacouncil.org/node/9>)

Students should be aware that the Modern Language Association, one of the professional organizations for people who teach language and literature, does not permit students to submit written work that has already received a grade in another class. The MLA refers to this as **self-plagiarism**. See the statement below copied from the MLA website.

Is it possible to plagiarize yourself? Yes, it is. If you reuse ideas or phrases that you used in prior work and do not cite the prior work, you have plagiarized. Many academic honesty policies prohibit the reuse of one’s prior work, even with a citation. If you want to reuse your work, consult with your instructor.

Collusion, another form of plagiarism, occurs when students work together on homework or other assignments and submit identical or similar assignments. In cases that display collusion, all parties involved will receive a failing grade.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Any student with disabilities or special needs should inform the instructor, who will make accommodations so all students can meet their educational goals.