UMASS AMHERST FILM & VIDEO COURSE GUIDE

FALL 2016

(Updated 04/05/2016)

Note: This guide is a work-in-progress. Course information may be subject to change.

AFROAM 197A - ST-TASTE OF HONEY: BLACK FILM SINCE THE 1950’S, PART 1
John Bracey                Cap: 25
Th 6:00PM- 8:30 PM         Location: TBA
(No description yet)
Course note: Department Consent Required
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

ART 274-01: ANIMATION FUNDAMENTALS
Patricia Galvis-Assmus      Cap: 6
TuTh 8:30AM- 11:15AM        FAC Rm. 447
Introduction to traditional animation techniques as used in fine art animation and experimental film/video. Basics of locomotion, timing, lighting, camera moves, exposure, sound design and audio and visual editing. Studio course.
Course Prerequisites: Completion of Art Foundations courses (ART 110,120,131, and 142)
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: V

ART 374-01 INTRO COMPUTER ANIMATION
Shane Mecklenburger        Cap: 14
MoWe 1:25PM - 4:10PM       FAC Rm. 447
First half of a two-semester sequence. With studio. Principles and applications of computer animation using Crater and Alias Maya software in film, video, music, and technology. Introduction to 2D and 3D animation programs. Skills acquired in preparation for production in second semester. Emphasis on professionalism and quality. Prerequisites: ART 271, 297Q. Should be followed by 397, 3D Computer Animation. Enrollment requirements may be waived with permission on the instructor
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: V

Chinese 136: “Introduction to Chinese Cinema”
Enhua Zhang                Cap: 40
TuTh 11:30AM - 12:45PM     Location TBD
Lab:We 4:00PM - 6:45PM     
Chinese cinema, broadly defined to include films from Hong Kong and Taiwan, from its inception at the turn of the century to the present. Explores Chinese film as an art form, an instrument of political propaganda, and a medium of mass entertainment. No background required, although some knowledge of modern Chinese history is helpful. Conducted in English.
( Gen.Ed. AT, G)
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V
COMM 140: INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES
Staff Cap: 30
Mon/Wed/Fri 11:15AM-12:05PM Pierpont House Room 101
The nature and several functions of film, including narrative and non narrative approaches to film communication. Topics include: the components of film expression (composition, movement, editing, sound, setting, and acting); designs in screen narrative; film's relationship to other arts and media; and its role as an instrument of social reflection and change.
Open to first year students in the Communications Major RAP in Pierpoint Hall.
This course was formerly numbered and titled COMM 240: Modes of Film Communication. If you have received credit for taking COMM 240, you will not receive credit for taking this course
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: I, V

COMM 231-01 FILM & TV PRODUCTION CONCEPTS
Kevin Anderson Cap: 125
TuTh 11:30AM - 12:45PM Integ. Learning Center S240
This class provides an overview of film and television production principles and processes from script to screen and also prepares students for later hands-on production courses. We will explore both the art and craft of film and video production, including the roles and functions of the major creative and technical personnel in the scripting/pre-production, production and post-production phases. Technical aspects such as digital vs. analog media, lighting, lenses, types of film and videotape, crew organization and function, editing concepts, sound recording, etc. will be discussed, as well as creative functions such as dramatic and documentary structure, creating characters, acting for the screen, visualization and composition for the camera and more.
Open to COMM and Undeclared majors, or to students who have taken either COMM 118, 121, 122, 125, or 140. 75 seats reserved for COMM majors. Students wishing to enroll who do not meet course eligibility should contact instructor.
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: I, V

COMM 331: PROGRAM PROCESS IN TELEVISION
David Maxey Cap: 36
We 10:10AM-11:00AM ILC-- TBA
L01 Mo 1:25PM-4:25PM, Integ. Learning Center N317
L02 We 1:25-4:25PM, Integ. Learning Center N317
L03 Fr 9:05AM-12:05PM, Integ. Learning Center N317
This course introduces concepts and techniques of television production through weekly lectures and lab meetings. During the course students work on two major projects: first, a short, narrative piece shot in single-camera, post-production style, and, second, a multiple camera piece shot live in the studio. Course Eligibility: Open to Senior, Junior & Sophomore Communication majors
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: V
COMM 340 - 01  History Of Film I  
Shawn Shimpach  Cap: 50  
MoWe 11:15AM - 12:05PM   Integ. Learning Center S350  
Lab: We 12:20PM - 2:15PM  
Lecture, lab (screening), discussion. A survey of key events and representative films that mark the history of motion pictures in the United States and other countries to 1950. In addition to identifying and providing access to major works, the course is designed to facilitate the study of the various influences (industrial, technological, aesthetic, social, cultural, and political) that have shaped the evolution of the medium to the advent of television. 
Open to Seniors, Juniors & Sophomores only. 
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIA, V

COMM 343 - 01  Women/Cinema of African Diaspora  
Demetria Shabazz  Cap: 35  
TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM   Integ. Learning Center S350  
This course focuses on women, identity, and Afrocentric film practices. It introduces students to the evolution of African women in all aspects of the cinema as image and as image-makers. 
Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only. 
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

COMM 394RI - 01  Race, Gender and the Sitcom  
Demetria Shabazz  Cap: 25  
TuTh 1:00PM - 2:15PM   Integ. Learning Center S350  
This course examines the situation comedy from sociological and artistic perspectives. We will seek, first of all, to understand how situation-comedy is a rich and dynamic meaning-producing genre within the medium of television. Secondly we will work to dissect narrative structures, and the genre's uses of mise-en-scene, cinematography/ videography, editing, and sound to create specific images of the family through social constructions of race, class, and gender. In addition we will use various critical methods such as semiotics, genre study, ideological criticism, cultural studies, and so on to interrogate why the sitcom form since its inception in the 1950s has remained one of the most popular genres for audiences and industry personnel alike and assess what the genre might offer us in terms of a larger commentary on notions of difference and identity in the US and beyond. Satisfies the IE require for BA-Comm majors. 
Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only. This course was formerly numbered COMM 397NN. If you have already taken COMM 39NN you cannot take this course. 
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V
COMM 397TV: TV STUDIO OPER, PROD DESIGN
David Maxcy      Cap: 10
Th 10:00AM-2:00PM  ILC–TV Studio S312
This course explores the links between technical operations, creative production design, and
actual production in the live, multiple-camera HD studio environment. Though loaded with
technology, the television studio is, from the first instance through the last, a creative
environment. Studio technology comprises a set of creative tools. Uses these tools are always
aimed at actual production of meaningful content. This course will explore and put to work the
concepts and techniques fundamental to multiple-camera studio production in the HD studio
environment: conceptualization, visualization, and writing for multiple-camera, wide-screen
production; production design, including staging, set design, photography and lighting, sound
design, and graphic design. In the area of studio operations students will learn and put to work
skills including light placement and mixing, videography using the HD studio camera, sound
pickup and mixing, and graphics. Students will realize all of this work in collaborative, final
studio production projects.
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: V

COMM 441: PRIN & TECH FILM STYLE PRODUCTION
Kevin Anderson      Cap: 12
Tu 2:30PM-6:30PM  Integ. Learning Center N317
A hands-on introduction to single-camera filmmaking using digital video camcorders and
non-linear editing. Production assignments will foster student skills in the art of visual
storytelling: from pre-production, shot composition and lighting to continuity editing and post
production aud
Course Eligibility: Senior and Junior Communication majors or permission of the instructor.
Prerequisite: Comm 231 and 331
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IV, V

COMM 444: FILM STYLES AND GENRES
Shawn Shimpach      Cap: 25
Mo 1:25PM-2:15PM  Integ. Learning Center S404
Lab: Mo 2:30PM-5:15PM
Lecture, discussion, lab. Why do we put certain films into categories? What constitutes a film
genre, how do we recognize it, and what do we do with it? This course examines these questions
and more by considering a specific genre over the course of the semester. We will learn to think
of genre as a way of comparing and contrasting different films. Genre will also be thought of as a
way of creating expectations and measuring experience and meaning. The power of film genre is
that it allows us to understand film as a text and film as a social practice at the very same time.
Course Eligibility: Open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors
Course Prerequisites: COMM 140, 240 or 340
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, IV, V
COMM 445 - SCREENWRITING
Bruce Geisler Cap: 20
TuTh 11:30AM - 12:45PM Integ. Learning Center N345
Martin Norden Cap: 20
TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM Integ. Learning Center N345
An examination of the art, craft, and business of screenwriting from theoretical and practical perspectives. Topics include screenplay format and structure, story, plot and character development, dialog and scene description, visual storytelling, pace and rhythm, analysis of professional and student scripts and films.
Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only. This course was formerly numbered as COMM 493E. If you have already taken COMM 493E you cannot take this course
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IV, V

COMM 446 - FILM DOCUMENTARY
Bruce Geisler Cap: 25
Tu 2:30PM - 4:30PM Integ. Learning Center S350
Lab: Tu 4:45PM - 5:45PM Integ. Learning Center N345
We will view, analyze, and discuss films by modern documentary masters such as Michael Moore ("Sicko"), Chris Paine, ("Revenge of the Electric Car"), Seth Gordon ("The King of Kong - A Fistful of Quarters"), Pamela Yates ("Granito") and many others to further the understanding of the documentary craft and art from a filmmaker's perspective. Students will also do pre production (research and treatment) for their own short documentary, along with shorter hands-on exercises in writing narration, interview techniques, etc.
Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only.
Prerequisite: COMM 140 (formerly 240), 231, 340, 342 or 445 (formerly 493E.)
This course was formerly numbered as COMM 493F. If you have already taken COMM 493F you cannot take this course
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, IV, V

COMM 493C: COUNTERCULTURAL FILMS
Bruce Geisler Cap: 25
We 2:30PM-4:30PM Integ. Learning Center S350
D01: We 4:45PM-5:55PM
An exploration of the counter-cultural movements of the 1960s and 70s and later, hosted by someone who was there and lived to tell the tale. Through the medium of documentary and fiction films, we will delve into the musical, sexual, artistic, political and spiritual upheavals that rocked America and Europe back then and that continue to reverberate today.
Course Eligibility: Open to Senior and Junior Comm majors only.
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, IV, V
COMM 493L - S-EXPERIMENTAL FILM AND VIDEO
Kevin Anderson  Cap: 25
Th 2:30PM - 5:30PM Integ. Learning Center S350
This course explores the genre of Experimental Film and Video with a critical eye toward the history and current articulations of this form of production in both feature film and short form movies/videos. The course begins with an introduction to the genre, then explores: Experimental Film/Video according to three different categories: Experimentation with Narrative, Experimentation with Structure/Form, and Experimentation with the line between Fact and Fiction. Students will emerge from this course with a solid foundation in the history and theory of experimental film/video as evidenced by writing projects, research papers, and student-produced experimental media projects. Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only.
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIA, IV, V

COMM 493M - SEMINAR- FASHION, CULTURE, MEDIA, STYLE
Anne Ciecko  Cap: 25
Mo 4:00PM - 6:45PM Integ. Learning Center N345
This seminar examines fashion (and the aesthetics of the clothed body and projected identity) as a socio-cultural phenomenon represented in the media, film, art, and literature. This interdisciplinary and international overview of critical fashion studies will incorporate diverse texts, case studies, theoretical perspectives, analytical tools, and at least one field trip. Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, IV, V

COMPLIT 350
Catherine Portuges, Kathryn Lachman  Cap: 20
Mo 4:00PM - 6:30PM Integ. Learning Center S24
DO1A:We 4:00PM - 5:15PM
DO1AB: We 5:30PM - 6:45PM
Catherine Portuges & Kathryn Lachman General Education course taught entirely in English, and all films have English subtitles. This semester's focus is on contemporary French and Francophone films. Using the background you acquire from the assigned readings, papers, lectures, screenings, and meetings of your discussion section, you will learn how to do a critical film analysis. We will explore recent debates about French identity in light of the challenges posed by immigration (especially non-European immigration), feminism, economic and cultural globalization, and France's version of "multiculturalism," casting a wide net over cinema to examine the privileged relationship between a nation, an art, and a social practice(Gen Ed AT).
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V
COMPLIT 383: NARRATIVE AVANT-GARDE FILM
Don Levine   Cap: 50
Mon 4:00PM-7:30PM   Location: TBA
D01AA Tu 2:30PM-3:45PM
D01AB Tu 4:00PM-5:15PM
Focus on narrative problems of love, desire, sexual identity, daily life, and death. These films' investigations of how we might gain distance on our life fictions by questioning and undermining viewer identification with narrative. (GenEd AT)
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIA, V

FRENCH 350- FRENCH FILM
Catherine Portuges, Kathryn Lachman   Cap: 64
Mo 4:00PM - 6:30PM   Integ. Learning Center S24
D01AA:We 4:00PM - 5:15 PM
D01AB: We 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM
D01AC: We 5:30PM - 6:45 PM
D01AD: We 5:30PM - 6:45 PM
Catherine Portuges & Kathryn Lachman General Education course taught entirely in English, and all films have English subtitles. This semester's focus is on contemporary French and Francophone films. Using the background you acquire from the assigned readings, papers, lectures, screenings, and meetings of your discussion section, you will learn how to do a critical film analysis. We will explore recent debates about French identity in light of the challenges posed by immigration (especially non-European immigration), feminism, economic and cultural globalization, and France's version of “multiculturalism," casting a wide net over cinema to examine the privileged relationship between a nation, an art, and a social practice (Gen Ed AT).
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

ITALIAN 350 - 01 ITALIAN FILM
Andrea Malaguti   Cap: 25
TuTh 4:00PM - 5:15PM   Location: TBA
Course taught in English. Re-examines Italian neo-realism and the filmmakers? project of social reconstruction after Fascism. How Italian film produces meanings and pleasures through semiotics and psychoanalysis, so as to understand the specific features of Italian cinema, its cultural politics, and the Italian contribution to filmmaking and formal aesthetics. Course taught in English
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

JUDAIC 344 FILM AND SOCIETY IN ISRAEL
(NOT ON SPIRE YET FOR FALL 2016)
This course uses film to discuss Israeli society. Topics include: foundation of Israel, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Holocaust survivors, religion, gender, and interethnic relations. All film showings are with English subtitles.
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

JUDAIC 354: FILM, THEATER, JEWS
(NOT ON SPIRE YET FOR FALL 2016)
This course examines the Jews’ deep and complicated relationship to the stage and screen, and how that relationship has influenced cultural, national, and religious identity. Topics include: the theater of religion; film and the immigrant experience; the history of Hollywood; and the work of Jewish actors and directors. (GenEd AT, G)
Prerequisites: any one of the following courses - JUDAIC 101 or 102, or HISTORY 130 and 131, or a 300-level advanced undergraduate course in Jewish or Middle Eastern Studies.
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

JUDAIC 364: CINEMA OF THE HOLOCAUST
(NOT ON SPIRE YET FOR FALL 2016)
Cinema today constitutes an important source of popular historical knowledge of the Holocaust. Fiction films in particular have come to occupy a central place in our understanding and memorialization of the Jewish catastrophe. Given their importance, this course will provide a cultural history of cinematic treatments of the Holocaust, trace major trends and changes in Holocaust representations, and raise questions concerning historical memory of the Holocaust in national cinemas. The main emphasis will be on narrative cinema, but several significant documentaries will also be considered. (GenEd G, HS)
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

MUSIC 170H: MUSIC IN FILM
Andrew Ritchey Cap: 24
TuTh 2:30PM-3:45PM Integ. Learning Center S404
The use of music in film, a "grand tour" of the aesthetics and dramatic techniques of film music since 1895. Excerpts from "silent era" and sound films will be viewed and studied as examples of film music development and the composer's art. (Gen.Ed. AT)
Open to Freshman Commonwealth Honors College students on.
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIA, V

PORTUG 408 BRAZIL IN FICTION AND FILM
Daphne Patai Cap: 20
Mo 4:00PM - 6:30PM Location: TBA
Introduction to Brazil through contemporary film and literature. (Gen.Ed. AL, G)
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

SPANISH 397PP: SPANISH CINEMA
Jose Ornelas Cap: 30
Wed 4:00PM-6:30PM Location: TBA
Description not available at this time
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, V

Spanish 432: FROM BOOK TO SCREEN
Barbara Zecchi Cap: 15
Mo 4:00PM - 6:30PM Location: TBA
This class will study Spanish literary works and their cinematic adaptations. It will address the fundamental differences between written words and visual image, measure the fidelity of the recreation, and reflect upon the implications of ideology and gender for reinterpretation.
Prerequisite: SPANISH 311 or SPANISH 354
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIB, IV, V

THEATER 105 DRAMA AND THE MEDIA - PERFORMING MYTHOLOGIES IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD
Megan Lewis Cap: 63
TuTh 11:30AM - 12:45PM Integ. Learning Center N 111
This course asks students to consider the following questions: How are media constructed and produced? Received and understood? And how do media make meaning in culture? How are the stories and mythologies that circulate in various media--film and television included--made "dramatic" or framed by and structured using theatrical techniques? And to what ends? How do social groups perform themselves and others? Locating our study in the cultures of the United States, Middle East, and Africa, and by exploring the connections between "drama" and "media," we will develop our abilities to critically analyze and decode meaning embedded in media texts, consider how nations perform themselves and others using various media, and ultimately become more savvy, ethical media consumers/producers and citizens of our global world. Gen. Ed. AT G
Undergraduate UMass Film Studies Certificate category: IIA, V