

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

FILM 101: Art of the Movies: Film Appreciation and Analysis

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: **FILM-101, Art of the Movies: Film Appreciation and Analysis**

B. New or Modified Course: **Modified**

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: **Spring** Year: **2013**

D. Sponsoring Department: **Communication and Languages**

E. Semester Credit Hours: **3.0**

F. Weekly Contact Hours: **3.0** Lecture: **3.0**
Laboratory: 0

G. Prerequisites/Corequisites: **None**

H. Laboratory Fees: **None**

I. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair:
Kevin Hinkle, 908.526.1200, X8568

II. Catalog Description

Art of the Movies: Film Appreciation and Analysis is an introduction to film as a contemporary art form. It emphasizes close observation and analysis of essential film language, specifically *mise en scene*, camera and editing techniques, lighting, and the cinematic use of sound. Screenings for this course include a broad range of films and film excerpts representing different time periods, cultures, and cinematic traditions. Students who complete this course will have a deeper understanding and appreciation of movies.

III. Statement of Course Need

Art of the Movies: Film Appreciation and Analysis is a free elective and a **General Education course in Humanities (Appreciation of the Arts)** available to students in any academic program.

A. This course has no lab component.

- B. This course generally transfers as a Humanities (Appreciation of the Arts) General Education course.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in Humanities (Appreciation of the Arts).
- C. This course serves as a program elective for Communication Studies.
- D. This course is a program requirement for Digital Media/Film Studies AS, Digital Video Production Certificate, Web Developer AS, and Game Development AAS.
- E. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Film Form and Types
 - 1. Genre
 - 2. Film as Art
- B. Narrative Structure
 - 1. Narrative
 - 2. Character Development
 - 3. Storytelling Devices
- C. Mise-en-Scène
 - 1. Lighting
 - 2. Makeup, Costumes
 - 3. Sets and Props
 - 4. Composition
- D. Cinematography
 - 1. Camera Angles
 - 2. Camera Movement
- E. Acting
- F. Editing
- G. Sound Design
- H. Film History and Film Technology

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Critically analyze the communicative visual power of film images (NJ-GE 1, *Embedded critical thinking)

2. Describe and analyze film works from various humanistic perspectives, applying film analysis techniques, terminology, and criteria. (NJ-GE 1, 6, *Embedded critical thinking)
3. Recognize and explain commonalities and differences in values, perspectives, and behaviors in films representing different time periods, cultures, and cinematic traditions (NJ-GE 1, 7, 8, *Embedded critical thinking)
4. Analyze and evaluate the function and constraints of film genres and thematic elements. (NJ-GE 1, *Embedded critical thinking)
5. Identify and analyze various techniques utilized in filmmaking, including mise-en-scene, camera and editing techniques, lighting effects, and cinematic use of sound (NJ-GE 1, *Embedded critical thinking)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Same as above.

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group exercises and collaboration
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. explication and analysis of film scenes
- F. journal writing
- G. field trips

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- A. art work
- B. research papers
- C. analytical essays
- D. journals and response essays
- E. exams
- F. quizzes

IX. Grade Determinants

- A. analytical essays
- B. oral presentations
- C. journals
- D. exams
- E. quizzes

- F. film responses
- G. class participation

X. Texts and Materials

- A. Suggested textbook: *Looking at Movies* (latest edition). Richard Barsam, Norton Publishing. (Or other comparable introductory film textbook)
- B. Suggested textbook: *Writing About Movies*, by Karen Gocsik and Richard Barsam.
- C. Web materials: internet resources relevant to films and film criticism

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks

XI. Resources

- A. Internet resources
- B. DVD/Blu-ray projection system
- C. classroom sound system appropriate for in-class film screenings
- D. dimmable light system for note-taking during film screenings
- E. CATT classroom