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: 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  

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