

**University of Rhode Island****Film Media Department/Harrington School of Communication and Media  
FLM 205, History of Film II, J-Term, 2025****SYLLABUS****Instructor: Michelle Le Brun, M.A.****E-mail: [milebrun@uri.edu](mailto:milebrun@uri.edu)****Zoom Room: <https://uri-edu.zoom.us/j/6307016058>****Class Days/Time: Online/Asynchronous****Credits: 4****Prerequisites: None****January 2<sup>nd</sup> – January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

***THIS CLASS WILL FLY BY IN A HEART BEAT! PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO GET STARTED AND TO REACH OUT TO ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS!***

**Course Description:**

A survey of world cinema from the 1950s to the present time, examining the production, distribution, and exhibition of narrative, documentary, and experimental among other forms of film.

**COURSE GOALS:**

- To understand the development of film art as an historical, social and cultural process.
- Analyze how these elements can contribute to a film's overarching aesthetic and thematic concerns.
- Identify the narrative, visual, and aural characteristics of Classical Hollywood and international cinema.
- Acquire the critical language that enables students to describe and analyze cinematic productions.
- Explore the cultural and historical contexts out of which films arise.
- Examine the ways in which films raise social questions and reflect the culture(s) that produced them.

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES AND COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

**Successful completion of this course provides General Education credit in the outcomes of A4. Arts & Design and C2. Global Responsibility.**

**In addition, students will:**

- Compare and contrast close readings of particular films.
- Describe and analyze films in various critical contexts and formulate arguments.
- Examine multiple interpretations of particular films, examining how various interpretations have changed over time.
- Become an informed and critical viewer of film.
- Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of varying points of view.
- Acquire the technical language needed to analyze and formulate arguments about cinematic productions.
- Demonstrate command over the technical language of film.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

There will be a variety of articles and links posted in Reading Resources that are required reading each week. **THEY ARE IN YOUR SYLLABUS.** You will also find additional videos to watch in Video Resources in Brightspace. In your weekly discussion posts, I will look to see that you have used your reading and additional research in your analysis and responses to the posted questions.

**Required Materials:**

A reliable internet connection and computer are ESSENTIAL and thus REQUIRED for this course. Registering for an online course implies that you understand and agree to this requirement. Please note that, should something happen to interrupt your internet access at home, you are responsible for finding acceptable access to the course.

**Brightspace Help:** <https://web.uri.edu/brightspace/>

You can also call the Help Desk at 401-874-4357.

Remember to use Google Chrome, Safari, or Mozilla Firefox as your browser. There have been compatibility issues with Internet Explorer. Firefox and Chrome work on both PC and Mac platforms.

**Technology Requirements**

Computer access to the internet is required in order to successfully navigate this course. The course is delivered through the Brightspace platform. Recommended browsers are Google Chrome, Safari, and Mozilla Firefox. The mobile versions of these browsers also work well with the majority of operations in Sakai. Internet Explorer is not recommended.

**CLASSROOM PROTOCOL:**

For this online course, Brightspace is our “classroom.” Please refer to the **(OVERVIEW)** section for an overview of this course. Please refer to **(START HERE)** for a detail of how to move through this course. In the online learning environment, “attendance” is measured by your PRESENCE in the site as well as your CONTRIBUTIONS to the site. The importance of regular log-ins and active participation cannot be overstated. I will gauge your participation by your regular, on-time Forum postings and responses, and timely assignment submissions. If you’ve never taken an online course, “hanging out” on Brightspace will take some getting used to, and it will be easy to forget about the course from time to time.

**FILM VIEWING:**

You will most likely need a Netflix and Amazon Prime account in order to watch the films that are required. As a URI student, you also have access to Kanopy at <http://uri.libguides.com/media/Kanopy>. If you are close to Kingston campus, the URI library will have most of these titles. Your local library may have them as well. Some are also available on YouTube.

There is also a link to my first film *Death: A Love Story* in your Brightspace site.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**In order to pass this class, you must complete all of the assignments.**

**All coursework will be completed through Brightspace. Please pay close attention to the due dates in this syllabus.** If work is not time stamped by the due date at 5pm on the date specified, it will be considered late and points will be deducted.

**The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus; changes will be announced via Brightspace.**

**Weekly Reading Quizzes**

The weekly reading quizzes are a way to make sure you are keeping up with the reading. These questions will be pulled from the chapters in your text as well as Professor's Notes, films viewed, and any additional articles posted. The quiz needs to be completed by 5PM, of the due date. Please complete the quiz in "Quizzes" on our Brightspace site.

**Weekly Discussions**

The weekly discussions will be about the films that we are watching as well as the readings assigned. You will be given a list of questions to answer and then asked to comment on **TWO** other classmates' responses to the same questions. You can make your post by clicking on "Start a new Thread".

**Responses to other students represents 50% of that grade for the week.** One-sentence responses will not be counted. Please use **Discussions** to engage with each other's thinking and observations.

**You will need to reference the reading in your responses. Please cite your sources and use timecode when referencing the film viewed that week.** Points will be deducted for not doing these things. These are due in by 5PM of the due date.

**Timecode example:** 00:01:30 = one minute and 30 seconds into the film. 01:45:01 = one hour, 45 minutes and one second into the film. 00:00:30 = 30 seconds into the film.

**[THIS COURSE WILL FLY BY IN A HEARTBEAT! TO NOT FAIL YOU MUST STAY ON TOP OF ASSIGNMENTS!](#)**

**NOTE THAT THE FIRST AND THIRD WEEKS ARE SHORTER THAN THE SECOND.**

**EVALUATION**

Your final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Weekly Reading Quizzes	40%
Weekly Discussions	60%

**COURSE SCHEDULE:****WEEK #1, JANUARY 2 - 6:****Post WWII Italy: Italian Neorealism**

Screen: BICYCLES THIEVES (VITTORIO DE SICA, ITALY, 1948) **(Available through Amazon, the library, Kanopy, Youtube, HBOMAX, The Criterion Collection)**

**Reading in Resources:** (Film Articles folder in Resources) **1) The Art Cinema as a Mode of Film Practice: David Bordwell. 2) It's a Neorealist World.** (Film History Folder) **1) NY Times: Neo-Neorealists.**

**Additional videos found in Video Resources tab in Brightspace:** **1) How Italian Neorealism Brought the Grit of the Streets to the Big Screen, 2) 1945: Rome Open City - How Neo-realism Shows You the World. 3) What is Neorealism?: Sight and Sound**

Participate in Discussion.

**Post WWII France: Auteurs and Modernism: The French New Wave**

Screen: BREATHLESS (JEAN LUC GODARD, 1950) **(Available through Amazon, the library, Youtube, HBOMAX, The Criterion Collection)**

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**Reading in Resources:** (Film Articles Folder): 1) American Scholar: Breathless, 2) Roger Ebert: Breathless. (Film History folder) 1) Cahiers du Cinéma and Evaluative Criticism, 2) Cineaste: Breathless.

**Additional video:** Auteur Theory Explained with Wes Anderson Movies

**Work:** Participate in Discussion on Brightspace and take quiz. **ALL WORK DUE JANUARY 6TH**

### **WEEK #2, JANUARY 7 -11: THE WAR FILM**

**The Cold War:** DR. STRANGELOVE (STANLEY KUBRICK, 1964) (Available through Amazon, the library, Youtube) (Also in our shared Google drive)

**Reading in Resources:** (Film History folder) 1) Almost Everything in "Dr. Strangelove" Was True. 2) How the U.S. took on Dr. Strangelove and tried to make Americans love the bomb.

**The War on Terrorism:** Screen: THE HURT LOCKER (KATHERINE BIGELOW, 2008) (Available through Amazon, the library, Youtube) (Also in our shared Google drive)

**Reading in Resources:** (Film Articles folder) 1) Film Comment: The Hurt Locker, 2) Jump Cut: The Hurt Locker, 3) Prod. Notes. (These are the Production Notes for The Hurt Locker). (Film Craft folder) 1) Filmmaker Magazine: The Hurt Locker. 2) Visual Effects in Kite Runner.

**Work:** Participate in Discussion on Brightspace and take quiz.

**FOR EXTRA CREDIT: You can watch THE KITE RUNNER (MARC FORSTER, 2007)– extra credit learning will be Demonstrated by using examples with timecode from this film as well in your discussion. (Also in our shared Google drive)**

**Work:** Participate in Discussion on Brightspace and take quiz. **ALL WORK DUE JANUARY 11TH**

### **WEEK #3, JANUARY 13 - 17:**

**RACE IN AMERICA:** Screening: DO THE RIGHT THING (SPIKE LEE, 1989) (Available through Amazon, the library, Youtube)

**Reading in Resources:** (Film Articles folder): 1) Ebert on Do The Right Thing, 2) Washington Post/Do The Right Thing.

**Additional video: 1) Did Mookie do the Right thing? 2) Anatomy of a Scene link: Do the Right Thing.**

**Work:** Participate in Discussion on Brightspace and take quiz.

**INSTITUTIONALIZED RACISM:** Documentary Screening: 13<sup>th</sup> (AVA DUVERNAY, 2016) (Available through Amazon, the library, Netflix).

**Reading in Resources:** (Film Craft folder) 6 Types of Documentary (Film Articles folder) 1) Ava DuVernay's 13<sup>th</sup> Reframes American History, 2) The Conversation: Systemic Racism 2) The Conversation: Systemic Racism.

**Work:** Participate in Discussion on Brightspace and take quiz. **ALL WORK DUE JANUARY 17.**

### **Brightspace Tech Help/Info:**

**Technology Requirements:** This is an online course and thus reliable computer access to the internet is required in order to successfully navigate this course. Recommended browsers are Google Chrome, Safari, and Mozilla Firefox. The mobile versions of these browsers also work well with the majority of operations

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in Brightspace. Internet Explorer is not recommended. Please be sure to keep your browser(s) up-to-date. Be sure to turn off pop-up blocker.

Please see: [Student Brightspace Tech Support](#)

**To access Brightspace:**

- Access [Brightspace LogOn](#)
- For login problems, call the Service Desk at 401-874-4357.
- **For help** with getting started and answers to frequently asked questions for both students and instructors, visit [Brightspace Help](#).
- **Brightspace also offers 24/7 support via live chat. Look for the chat icon on the homepage when you first login.**
- Find YouTube [Brightspace Tutorials for Learners](#)
- **URI IT Help:** You can also call the [Help Desk](#) at 401-874-4357. [see below]

**URI Help Desk**

- The [University of Rhode Island IT Service Desk](#) is the one-stop center for all tech-related issues at the university. The Help Desk provides support for any issue related to eCampus, Brightspace, E-mail, Internet connections, wireless, smartphones and tablets, laptops, desktops, and more. The Help Desk also offers specific resource pages devoted to Brightspace specific support as well as eCampus-specific support. To contact the URI Help Desk, you can either call them at 401.874.HELP (4357) or e-mail them at [helpdesk@uri.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uri.edu).
- The [Service Desk Website](#) posts the semester operating schedule as well as a link on the right index to the self-help technical wiki. That site contains Brightspace help and instructions for both students and faculty.

**Word Processing Software:**

- **The Microsoft Office suite is free to all URI students. Download it here.**
- Documents should be saved as Word docs only.
- Microsoft Word 2007 and 2011 default to saving documents as "docx" (or you can select "save as doc" in order to make your files available to older Microsoft programs).
- **Do not submit work in any other format other than as a Word doc. If you write in Google docs, please "save as" - "Word doc." Here's how to convert a Google doc to Word**

**Academic Enhancement Center (for undergraduate courses):** Located in Roosevelt Hall, the AEC offers free face to face and web-based services to undergraduate students seeking academic support. Peer tutoring is available for STEM-related courses through drop-in centers and small group tutoring. The Writing Center offers peer tutoring focused on supporting undergraduate writers at any stage of a writing assignment. The UCS160 course and academic skills consultations offer students strategies and activities aimed at improving their studying and test-taking skills. Complete details about each of these programs, up-to-date schedules, contact information and self-service study resources are all available on the AEC website, [web.uri.edu/aec](http://web.uri.edu/aec).

- **STEM Tutoring** helps students navigate 100 and 200 level math, chemistry, physics, biology, and other select STEM courses. The STEM Tutoring program offers free online and limited in-person peer-tutoring this fall. Undergraduates in introductory STEM courses have a variety of small group times to choose from and can select occasional or weekly appointments. Appointments and locations will be visible in the TutorTrac system on September 14th, 2020. The TutorTrac application is available through [URI Microsoft](#)

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[365](#) single sign-on and by visiting [aec.uri.edu](http://aec.uri.edu). More detailed information and instructions can be found at [uri.edu/aec/tutoring](http://uri.edu/aec/tutoring).

- **Academic Skills Development** resources helps students plan work, manage time, and study more effectively. In Fall 2020, all Academic Skills and Strategies programming are offered both online and in-person. **UCS160: Success in Higher Education** is a one-credit course on developing a more effective approach to studying. **Academic Consultations** are 30-minute, 1 to 1 appointments that students can schedule on Starfish with Dr. David Hayes to address individual academic issues. **Study Your Way to Success** is a self-guided web portal connecting students to tips and strategies on studying and time management related topics. For more information on these programs, visit [uri.edu/aec/academic-skills](http://uri.edu/aec/academic-skills) or contact Dr. Hayes directly at [davidhayes@uri.edu](mailto:davidhayes@uri.edu).

- **The Undergraduate Writing Center** provides free writing support to students in any class, at any stage of the writing process: from understanding an assignment and brainstorming ideas, to developing, organizing, and revising a draft. Fall 2020 services are offered through two online options: 1) real-time **synchronous appointments** with a peer consultant (25- and 50-minute slots, available Sunday - Friday), and 2) written **asynchronous consultations** with a 24-hour turn-around response time (available Monday - Friday). Synchronous appointments are video-based, with audio, chat, document-sharing, and live captioning capabilities, to meet a range of accessibility needs. View the synchronous and asynchronous schedules and book online, visit [uri.mywconline.com](http://uri.mywconline.com).

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. A student's name on any written work, quiz or exam shall be regarded as assurance that the work is the result of the student's own independent thought and study. Work should be stated in the student's own words, properly attributed to its source. Students have an obligation to know how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, cite and reference the work of others with integrity. The following are examples of academic dishonesty.

- Using material, directly or paraphrasing, from published sources (print or electronic) without appropriate citation
- Claiming disproportionate credit for work not done independently
- Unauthorized possession or access to exams
- Unauthorized communication during exams
- Unauthorized use of another's work or preparing work for another student
- Taking an exam for another student
- Altering or attempting to alter grades
- The use of notes or electronic devices to gain an unauthorized advantage during exams
- Fabricating or falsifying facts, data or references
- Facilitating or aiding another's academic dishonesty
- **Submitting the same paper for more than one course without prior approval from the instructors.**

**Anti-Bias Syllabus Statement:** We respect the rights and dignity of each individual and group. We reject prejudice and intolerance, and we work to understand differences. We believe that equity and inclusion are critical components for campus community members to thrive. If you are a target or a witness of a bias incident, you are encouraged to submit a report to the URI Bias Response Team at [www.uri.edu/brt](http://www.uri.edu/brt). There you will also find people and resources to help.

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**Counseling Center:** The URI Counseling Center cares about the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of our students. As such, we have implemented the following changes. Please note that these policies will be updated as things continue to unfold.

\* We are currently providing video and phone support to students in several states. Availability is determined by each state's licensing laws. We are able to provide brief consultations to those in other states. Call us for more information.

\* Pre-screening hours for new and returning clients are M-F 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Call us at 401-874-2288 for an appointment.

\* Our staff remain available over the phone (401-874-2288), M-F, 8:30 – 4:30. After hours support will continue to be offered by ProtoCall.

**Disability Services for Students Statement:** Your access in this course is important. Please send me your Disability Services for Students (DSS) accommodation letter early in the semester so that we have adequate time to discuss and arrange your approved academic accommodations. If you have not yet established services through DSS, please contact them to engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations in the classroom. DSS can be reached by calling: 401-874-2098, visiting: [web.uri.edu/disability](http://web.uri.edu/disability), or emailing: [dss@etal.uri.edu](mailto:dss@etal.uri.edu). We are available to meet with students enrolled in Kingston as well as Providence courses.

**RHODY CONNECT APP:** Download the [Rhody Connect](#) app - a one-stop shop for all things related to life at URI. Access to the daily health self-assessment, study space information, events, classes, dining menus, etc.

### **GRADING STANDARDS**

An “A” paper demonstrates that the writer has not only mastered the concepts and terms of the course, but has applied them in an imaginative and incisive manner. The paper shows a command of the language that allows the writer to express ideas and observations clearly, effectively in detail and with virtually no mechanical errors. The paper includes good documentation. “A”s are reserved for exceptional essays.

A “B” essay demonstrates that the writer has understood the concepts and terms of the course and has applied them with some originality. The paper shows the writer can organize a coherent essay with few errors. The paper includes adequate documentation.

A “C” essay demonstrates that the writer has understood most of the concepts of the course but needs to pay more attention to reading or writing. Documentation is erratic.

A “D” essay demonstrates that the writer has only minimal understanding of the concepts of the course. Significant gaps in the writer's comprehension indicate the need for more study. The paper shows the writer's basic compositional skills are below satisfactory. Documentation is unsatisfactory.

An “F” essay demonstrates that the writer has little, if any, understanding of the concepts of the course. Because of the writer's lack of skill or concern, the work includes gross errors as well as a lack of content. Documentation is negligible or nonexistent. The paper may also fail to address part of the assignment.

A paper may combine characteristics of different levels of work. In that case, the grade will depend on the paper's overall demonstration of knowledge of the material and of college writing skills and may place the writer between whole grades.

### **GRADING SCALE**

A= 95-100

A- = 92-94

B+ = 88-91

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B= 85-87  
 B-= 82-84  
 C+= 78-81  
 C= 75-77  
 C-= 72-76  
 D+= 68-71  
 D= 65-67  
 D-= 62-64  
 F= 61 and below

### **RESEARCH WEBSITES**

<http://reverseshot.org/> Museum of the Moving Image  
<http://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine> - Sight and Sound Magazine  
<https://mubi.com/notebook/> - Notebook: A journal of international cinema and film culture.  
<http://www.thecine-files.com/> A scholarly journal of film studies  
<http://www.criterion.com/> -for films and analysis of films and filmmaking  
<http://www.davidbordwell.net/> David Bordwell is one of our most important film scholars. This is his blog.  
<http://filmlinc.com/film-comment> - Film Comment  
<http://cleojournal.com/> - Cleo – a journal of film and feminism  
<http://www.afi.com/> The American Film Institute  
[www.bbc.co.uk/films](http://www.bbc.co.uk/films) - BBC Film  
<http://www.indielondon.co.uk/Film-Archive/film-archive> IndieLondon  
 Mediarights.org – Excellent resource for all things social issue and documentary.  
[www.mwp.com](http://www.mwp.com) - Michael Weise Productions – publishes lots of very good and helpful books on film production.  
[www.mrqe.com](http://www.mrqe.com) - movie review query engine  
<https://cinfiles.bampfa.berkeley.edu/cinfiles/> - Cinefiles – Pacific Film Archive’s database.  
 IMDB.com – internet movie database  
[www.loc.gov/film/orgs.html](http://www.loc.gov/film/orgs.html) - Film, Preservation and Cultural Organizations  
[www.filmstudies.ca/](http://www.filmstudies.ca/) - Film Studies Association of Canada  
<http://people.virginia.edu/~pm9k/libsci/womFilm.html> – Women in cinema: A reference guide.  
[www.cineaste.com](http://www.cineaste.com) - Cineaste  
<http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/> - Media Commons/ scholarly media studies  
<http://www.reverseshot.com/> - Reverse Shot  
<http://www.slantmagazine.com/> - Slant Magazine  
<http://www.fandor.com/keyframe/> - Keyframe

### **WRITING CENTER**

*“All writers, all disciplines, all levels, all stages of writing.”* Located in Roosevelt Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, the Writing Center provides free tutorials for anyone in the University community wanting feedback on any kind of college or extra-curricular writing. The Writing Center staff works with writers on brainstorming ideas, paragraphing, sharpening thesis statements, documenting sources, organizing material, enhancing clarity, using appropriate evidence, or practicing and internalizing certain grammatical concepts. Bring your assignment and any work you have done on it, and expect to spend the session working. Tutors will not proofread or polish your work for you, but they will work with you to develop strategies you can use in all writing situations. If possible, call ahead for an appointment (874-4690), although drop-in tutorials are often available.

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