

Global Cinema

(Eng. 5140)

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Office Hours: MW 11am-12pm Tue/Thu 11-12, 1-3 (and by appt. or Zoom, as needed)

Course Description

Global Cinema provides us with the opportunity to explore the art of film in a global context. We will analyze the preoccupations and methodologies of filmmakers and their films from nations like France, Germany, Taiwan, Sweden, India, Senegal, the Czech Republic, and Mexico. Studying the moving image is akin to studying poetry, and you will be asked to challenge and expand your visual literacy and critical thinking skills. We will study materials in film and art theory, philosophy, and cultural studies, and write thesis-based analytical papers in which we apply theory to film analysis and confront the fictions and non-fictions of worlds beyond our own. In doing so, we will have the chance to see and to understand ourselves better.

Course Objectives

Our primary objective in this course is to progress significantly as film scholars, writers and thinkers. We will:

- ***Engage critically** with films and readings.
- *Generate **critical questions** about films and texts and use them as touchstones to thoughtful discussions.
- *Write sophisticated **formal thesis-based essays** using textual evidence and MLA standards.
- *Maintain an **on-going conversation with the films and one another** through informal (but critically cogent) response papers.
- *Develop as communicators in an academic setting through **in-class discussions**.
- *Develop small and large academically sound papers with **good grammar, sentence structure, spelling, syntax, diction**, etc.
- *Participate in **formal and informal discussions** with **civility and thoughtfulness**, listening to one another's points-of-view and responding critically and intelligently – and always kindly.

Texts *World on Film*, by Martha P. Nochimson
Other material from instructor as hard copies and on Canvas.
All films provided by instructor

***Assignments**

Grading

Formal Essay	20%
Filmmaker Projects	20%
Film Element (ongoing)	15%
Scene Write-up	15%
Class Writings	15%
Participation	15%

A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77
C-	70-73
D*	0-69

*All assignments and percentages are subject to change, depending upon class needs and the decision of the instructor. You can always talk to me about your individual work and progress throughout the semester.

Grading

Assignments will come with point values or grades or check marks (to indicate credit). Smaller assignments will be almost daily. You will write both in class and outside of class. Some assignments will include written feedback from me, while some will simply receive the points your work has earned or a letter grade or check mark.

Assignments Note

All assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Work that is turned in late will be penalized. The only exceptions to this rule are if you have a legitimate emergency and/or an excused absence (see below) and you and I have had an in-person discussion about a short extension. Technological problems (a broken printer, for example) are not acceptable excuses for late work. **You should always back up your work and have contingency plans for logistical problems.** This is a significant part of being academically responsible. Everything you do for this class, in and out of the classroom, can and will contribute positively or negatively to your overall course grade. I reserve the right, throughout the course, to make any adjustments I deem necessary based upon your on-going performance.

Excused Absences: In the event that you have an excused absence and cannot turn an assignment in on time, we will arrange for you to complete the assignment with a new due date, which is likely to be the next class.

Participation

Our classroom conversations are dependent upon your participation. While you are expected to have your readings and assignments done on time, you are also expected to be prepared to share your observations, questions, and ideas with the class. You will be evaluated on the **overall effort and value of your daily engagement with our material**. This includes in-class writing and workshops. Failure to be prepared or to contribute reduces your participation percentage.

Attendance

You are expected to be in class and on time daily. Failure to do so will hurt your overall grade. Sleeping in class constitutes an unexcused absence. If you have an emergency and cannot make it to class, I ask you that you contact me in person or through my office phone number.

Tardiness: If you arrive in class 5 minutes after the appointed time, you will be considered tardy. If you are more than 10 minutes tardy, you will earn an unexcused absence, but you will still be expected to attend class.

Indiana Academy Unexcused Absence Policy

It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor.

*You are expected to attend every class. You are allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will be penalized as follows: Unexcused absence (1) = 1-point subtraction from final grade. Unexcused absence (2) = 3-point subtraction from final grade. Unexcused absence (3) = 5-point subtraction from final grade. (For example, if you have an 89 final average with (3) unexcused absences your final grade will be 84). Four (4) or more unexcused absences will lead to academic and residential consequences beyond the scope of this class determined by the Office of Academic Affairs (i.e., residential groundings, parent/principal conference, and/or detention).

**Any minor assignment/test/project/presentation missed due to an unexcused absence will be handled according to the late work policy of this class. You will be given an opportunity to retake any missed assignment/test/project/presentation worth more than 20% of the final grade but will be docked a full letter grade as a result.

Academic Honesty

You are required to produce work that is academically honest. Direct and indirect plagiarism, both of which we will discuss in class, are unacceptable and have serious academic consequences. **If you are even remotely uncertain about whether or not any part of your work is academically honest, then you are to contact me and we**

can discuss the situation. Please refer to the student handbook for additional information, including information that is new this year.

Accommodations

If you require any special accommodations due to a documented disability, let me know as soon as possible and I will make whatever adjustments are necessary for your comfort in my class.

Laptops

Laptops are to be closed and off your desks during class time unless I have specified otherwise (we will occasionally write in class) This class requires an intense engagement in film and writing and the distraction of computers on any level in the classroom is unacceptable.

Literature Note

Important literature is often about the deepest and most difficult struggles of humans to live authentically in a complex world. Through the thoughts and experiences of literary characters, we can examine and evaluate our personal responses to life's mysteries, complexities, disappointments, and joys. In addition, we begin to understand how a writer, in his or her own struggle to experience creatively, has responded to the social, political, and artistic environment of his/her times. The English Department at the Academy selects reading material that reflects these human struggles, has endured the test of time, and has earned a respected place in the universe of letters. The instructors will often include recently published poems, stories, and articles that reflect the diversity of contemporary cultures and experiences.

If, because of the powerful nature of the reading experience, you are unable to read and study a specific text with reasonable analytic objectivity, please confer with your instructor.

Alternative texts are available.

This statement reflects our studies of both film and literature.

BSU Diversity Statement

"Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>."

Indiana Academy Mask Policy

The Indiana Academy will follow [Ball State University's mask policy](#) (see Section IV). Based on current CDC guidance recommending the wearing of face masks for all people—regardless of vaccination status—in public indoor settings in communities where the rate of coronavirus

transmission is high or substantial, all employees, students, and campus visitors are required to wear a mask while inside any University building. This requirement is effective on August 9, 2021. Fully vaccinated people are not required to wear masks outdoors.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are required to wear face masks while inside campus buildings and outside when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

If a student declines to wear a face mask as required, the student will be referred to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. If the situation occurs in a classroom or other academic setting, it is considered a classroom management issue, and the teacher will remind the student of the requirement and give the student a chance to comply with it prior to referring the matter to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. Wearing masks is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19 to others.