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EIU 4192G-099: Film and Contemporary Society Honors

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EIU 4192G, section 099:
EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society
Fall 2016 | Coleman 3170 | Wednesdays 3-6.20 PM

Professor: Dr. Robert Martínez

Office: Coleman 3371

E-mail: rlmartinez@eiu.edu

Office Hours: MF 11 AM-12 PM and 3 PM-4.30 PM, and by appointment

Class Website: D2L

Course Description:

EIU 4192G-099 (4-0-4, FS) is an EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society. In this course, we will study some of the theory, aesthetics, history, and cultural contexts of film, concentrating on the relationships among film, literature, popular culture, music, and the arts. Students will explore the ways in which we read film and culture from around the world, and the ways in which we write about film. The Fall 2016 iteration of this seminar will emphasize how cinema from around the world asks us to think critically about central problems facing contemporary society, such as the problem of evil and violence, the ethical quandaries facing us during times of war or conflict, and our complicated relationship with technology. This course is writing intensive and not open to English majors. (Note: This EIU Honors Senior Seminar requires student completion of at least 75 semester hours and does not fulfill the English Junior Seminar required of English majors.)

Course Learning Objectives:

- Students will exercise their abilities to summarize and synthesize information from scholarly sources of various disciplines and from interdisciplinary materials (writing, critical thinking).
- Students will have opportunities to make oral presentations of these summaries and syntheses (speaking).
- Students will learn to conduct interdisciplinary film research using both primary and secondary sources (critical thinking).
- Students will learn how to communicate these research findings in oral and written form (writing and speaking).
- Students will learn to research, study, analyze and compare films from their own culture and those of other cultures (critical thinking).
- Students will learn the importance of film studies in understanding cross-cultural interactions (citizenship).
- Students will learn the importance of film studies as a basis for social action (citizenship).
- Students will learn the significance of film as an integrated art form.
- Students will learn the significance of contemporary film to a study of contemporary culture and society.

Required Texts & Films:

- Bernard F. Dick, *Anatomy of Film* (6th edition)
- Selected readings on D2L
- Gavin Hood, *Eye in the Sky* (2015)
- Oliver Stone, *Platoon* (1986)

- Tobias Lindholm, *Krigen* (tr. *A War*; 2015)
- Elem Klimov, *Come and See* (1985)
- László Nemes, *Son of Saul* (2015)
- Alan Pakula, *The Parallax View* (1974)
- Don Siegel, *Dirty Harry* (1971)
- Jen and Sylvia Soska, *American Mary* (2012)
- Hal Hartley, *Amateur* (1994)
- Francis Ford Coppola, *The Conversation* (1974)
- Michael Powell, *Peeping Tom* (1960)
- Krzysztof Kieślowski, *Dekalog: Jeden* (tr. *Decalogue: One*; 1988)
- Ben Wheatley, *Kill List* (2011)

Screenings in and Readings for Class:

You are required to attend all class film screenings and to do all assigned reading for this course. More importantly, you are expected to read all assignments and watch all films **carefully** and **conscientiously**, meaning you are to make note of your reactions to the readings/films and be prepared to share your critical thoughts and interpretations of the works we cover. If you do not understand something in the reading, you should read it again and work at its meaning; likewise, if something about a film is perplexing, watch it again and think about it carefully. This process is what is known as “critical reading” and “critical thinking”: you must study a writer’s language or filmmaker’s films and think critically about its meanings and ramifications.

The text listed above is available from Textbook Rental (TRS). Other required readings will be available online via our course page on D2L. On the day that a text is to be discussed, you must have that work with you in class. For **electronic readings (PDF or Web documents)**, you must have readable access to those documents in class on the day the material is discussed. Since this course emphasizes careful reading and writing, you must either print out the document(s) or use a laptop, desktop, iPad, Kindle, or Nook to view them. **Using Smartphones to view readings for class discussion is not acceptable, unless directed to do so by the instructor.**

Required Attendance, Materials & Editions:

- Check Panthermail (e-mail) **daily**
- Visit class website frequently for music analysis (USE FIREFOX OR SAFARI BROWSERS)
- Use text editions found at Textbook Rental
- Attend class and participate daily in discussion
- Listen to all assigned music **carefully**
- Attend all film screenings
- Additional readings via handouts or D2L

Attendance in EIU 4192G means that you are present in class each day in both *body and mind*—that is, I expect you to come to class each day having completed any required reading or listening or viewing assignments and ready to share your thoughtful, considered ideas. **Missing class and not completing assignments are not acceptable.** If you become ill or experience family or personal difficulties beyond your control, then you must notify me of your absence as soon as possible. Not completing daily assignments and not contributing to class discussion will result in poor participation grade scores. If you miss more than three (3) classes, your final course grade will be penalized: starting with the

fourth (4th) absence, a "+" or "-" will be deducted from your final course grade.

Grading of Assignments:

- Paper #1 Analysis (5-7 pages or 1500-1950 words)*: 15%
- Paper #2 Analysis (5-7 pages or 1500-1950 words): 15%
- Group Presentation: 25%
- Participation/discussion/forum posts/possible quizzes: 15%
- Research Term Paper (10-12 pages or 2450-2900 words): 30%

*Paper #1 can be rewritten/revised for a higher grade.

Grading Scale:

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90-93
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 84-86
- B- = 80-83
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 74-76
- C- = 70-73
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

Turning in Assignments & Feedback:

Assignments turned in via D2L Dropbox must be in Microsoft Word format. Instructor feedback will be embedded in graded writing. For electronic assignments (blogs and Tweets), students must turn in a short self-assessment of that work in Word format in D2L Dropbox. For revision writing, you must consider and review instructor feedback thoroughly. When turning in any revised work, you must make sure that the instructor's feedback does **not** remain in your revised document.

Specific Assignments:

All written work should be formatted thus:

- Use Microsoft Word
- Use Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Cambria font
- Use 1" (top/bottom) and 1.25" (left/right) margins
- Include your name, course name, professor's name, and date on the front page
- Include a title for your essays
- Place your name and page numbers in the headers of your essays
- Turn in all written work electronically via D2L Dropbox

A Note about Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's ideas, words, or work as your own. If you use or refer to ideas or work other than your own, you must acknowledge the source and author of those ideas/that work and document it properly using MLA format (Purdue MLA guide: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation at EIU, and offenders will be referred to the EIU Office for Student

Standards. **Failure to cite any outside sources or critics will constitute plagiarism.**

Most assignments will receive letter grades. For shorter assignments, the following check-mark system will be used:

- $\checkmark+$ = Excellent work that is strongly engaged, on-topic, and very well written.
- \checkmark = Satisfactory work that is on-topic and cleanly written.
- $\checkmark-$ = Below average work that shows little engagement, is off-topic, and is hurriedly and poorly written.

Student Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>).

Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Disability Services:

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call [217-581-6583](tel:217-581-6583).

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call [217-581-6696](tel:217-581-6696), or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Tech Support

If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. E-mail and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, please contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours (8 am-5 pm) or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

**EIU 4192G, section 099:
EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society
Fall 2016 | Tentative Class Schedule***

***Please note:** This schedule is *tentative*; activities or readings are subject to change depending on class progress.

Date	What We'll Do in Class	Homework
Wed., 8/24	<p>Discuss course policies and syllabus</p> <p>Cultural & Intellectual background to contemporary society</p> <p>Discus how film creates representation and meaning</p>	<p>Read "Sound" in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 36-50)</p> <p>Read "Mise-en-Scène" in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 86-98)</p> <p>Read "The Shot" in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 51-63)</p>
Wed., 8/31	<p>Unit I - "[T]o show something is to ennoble it"? Representing War: Watch and discuss Stone's <i>Platoon</i></p>	<p>Read excerpt regarding Francois Truffaut's response to cinema and "The Algerian Tragedy" (D2L)</p> <p>Read "Introduction" to <i>War on the Silver Screen</i> (D2L)</p> <p>Read "Introduction" to <i>War Cinema</i> (D2L)</p>
Mon., 9/5	<p>Labor Day - No Class</p>	
Wed., 9/7	<p>Unit I - "[T]o show something is to ennoble it"? Representing War: Watch and discuss Klimov's <i>Come and See</i></p>	<p>Read sections on shots and editing in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 69-83)</p>
Wed., 9/14	<p>Unit I - "[T]o show something is to ennoble it"? Representing War: Watch and discuss Nemes's <i>Son of Saul</i></p>	
Wed., 9/21	<p>Unit II - The Ethics of Conflict: Watch and discuss Hood's <i>Eye in the Sky</i></p> <p>Paper #1 Due in D2L Dropbox</p>	
Wed., 9/28	<p>Unit II - The Ethics of Conflict: Watch and discuss Lindholm's <i>Krigen (War)</i></p> <p>Choices for Group Project due in class</p>	

Wed., 10/5	Unit II - The Ethics of Conflict: Watch and discuss Wheatley's <i>Kill List</i>	Read Pauline Kael's "Saint Cop" and other critical reviews (D2L)
Wed., 10/12	Unit III - Individual Identity and Intervention: Watch and discuss Siegel's <i>Dirty Harry</i>	
Fri., 10/14	No Class - Fall Break	
Wed., 10/19	Unit III - Individual Identity and Intervention: Watch and discuss Pakula's <i>The Parallax View</i>	Read Laura Mulvey's "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (D2L)
Wed., 10/26	Unit IV - Sexuality and the Gaze: Watch and discuss Powell's <i>Peeping Tom</i> and Mulvey's theory of "the gaze" Paper #2 Due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, 10/28	Read Carol Clover's "Her Body, Himself" (D2L)
Wed., 11/2	Unit IV - Sexuality and the Gaze: Watch and discuss the Soska Sisters' <i>American Mary</i> and Clover's study of gender in horror	
Wed., 11/9	Unit V - Faith and Personal Agency: Watch and discuss Coppola's <i>The Conversation</i>	Idea/Annotated Bibliography for Research Term Paper due in D2L
Wed., 11/16	Unit V - Faith and Personal Agency: Watch and discuss Krzysztof Kieślowski's <i>Dekalog, Jeden (Decalogue: One)</i>	Finalize group projects! Be working on Research Term Paper!
11/21- 11/25	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	Finalize group projects! Be working on Research Term Paper!
Wed., 11/30	Unit V - Faith and Personal Agency: Watch and discuss Hartley's <i>Amateur</i>	Finalize group projects! Be working on Research Term Paper!
Wed., 12/7	Group project presentations in class	Research Term Paper is due Sunday, Dec. 13, in D2L by 10 PM.