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Fall 2015

FTA 4545

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University of New Orleans

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**FTA 4545 Film Theory and Criticism
FALL 2015 Syllabus**

Days/Time: TUE, THU 3:30 AM – 4:45 PM
Classroom: PAC 313
Instructor: Maja Holzinger

Fall 2015 Office Hours:
Thursdays: 2:00 – 3:00pm **Room:**
Email:

Course Description: This course introduces its students to major film theories and critical approaches in the study of film. The class is designed to help the students understand scholarly literature about film and critically engage with it. Over the course of this class, students will exercise applying theory to films through film analysis, discussion and academic writing. The class's objective is to invite the students to look closer at movies and creatively approach the works of cinema from different angles and in a wide horizon of cultural context.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Become familiar with the major film theories existing in the field of Film Studies
- Apply theory to practice by visual and textual analysis of film works
- Gain a greater appreciation and understanding of cinema

Required Text:

Thomas Elsaesser, Malte Hagener. **Film Theory: An Introduction Through the Senses**, 1st Edition
Additional readings will be assigned and uploaded to Moodle.

Course Requirements:

Students will be required to attend each class session **including lectures AND screenings**, read the required readings from the text as well as electronic materials. Participation and attendance are critical to the success of this class and will be used to help determine the final grade. Students must come to class having completed the assigned readings for that week. Students must have Internet access to www.uno.edu and Moodle. Be prepared for some communication through Moodle and email. **Students are responsible for all email communication from the instructor to their UNO email address.**

Grades: Students will be required to write an essay (8-10 pages). The essay will constitute a 33% of your final grade. Mid Term exam will constitute 20% while the final exam will constitute 33%. The remaining 20% of your grade will be determined by the attendance and a short paper (2-4 p.) based on your participation in the New Orleans Film Festival. If you absolutely cannot participate in the festival, please come see me about an equivalent assignment. **Students must bring pencils on exam days.**

Attendance: 100 points
NOFF Paper 100 points
Mid Term: 200 points
Final Exam: 300 points
Essay: 300

Total: 1000 points

Grading Scale, % out of 100

100 - 90 **A**
89 - 80 **B**
79 - 70 **C**
69 - 60 **D**
59 - 0 **F**

Make-up Exam Policy: Make-up exams will only be permitted with an approved excuse (serious illness or similar emergency). The student is responsible for notifying the instructor **PRIOR** to missing an exam **AND** for contacting the instructor to schedule the makeup exam. Makeup exams must occur before the in-class exam review (see syllabus calendar), will be formatted at the

FTA 4545 Film Theory and Criticism
FALL 2015 Syllabus

discretion of the instructor and have an automatic 10% grade reduction. **Make-ups are not permitted for the final exam.**

Attendance: The format of this class, lectures combined with screenings, make attendance at each class especially important.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at the start of each class. Each student begins the semester with 100 attendance points. Every absence **exceeding two** carries a **25-point penalty**, which is subtracted from the total of 100 points.

A sign-in sheet will be used for taking attendance. It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have signed in before leaving the classroom. There will be no retroactive signing in after the class period. Signing in on behalf of another student is a form of academic dishonesty and is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in automatic failure of the course for all students involved (signer and absent student).

Students are required to use a full signature every time. Initials are not sufficient.

Classroom Conduct: Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Courteous behavior and respect for faculty and students are expected.

Be in class on time. Interruptions are distracting and waste time. Cell phones should be turned off before class begins. There will be no eating, text messaging or web browsing allowed in class. Feel free to ask the instructor questions during class, but please refrain from talking to other students, as it may disturb other class members.

Moodle: Students must have Internet access to www.uno.edu and be able to access the Moodle companion site for this class. All Power Point lectures, course handouts and other resource documents will be posted on the Moodle site. Moodle and your UNO email account should be checked regularly so as not to miss important announcements. All email correspondence between the instructor and students will be through UNO email addresses only. Help with Moodle can be accessed <http://www.uno.edu/moodle>

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code on UNO's website for further information:
<http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/accountability.cfm>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students who qualify for services will receive academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance. More information is available online at <http://ods.uno.edu/>

Notice: Some of the films screened for this course may contain material some might find offensive, so please be aware that films shown in this class may be rated R or NC-17 for violent and/or sexual content. Your enrollment in the course indicates your awareness of this and your willingness to approach these films in an adult, critical manner.