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MAR 101L.50: Introduction to Media Arts

Lynn-Wood Fields

University of Montana - Missoula, lynn-wood.fields@umontana.edu

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MAR 101L (01) Hybrid Online Introduction to Media Arts

Spring 2014

Professor Lynn-Wood Fields

Office Hours: Scheduled—Skype or in-person

email: lynn-wood.fields1@mso.umt.edu

or

lynnwood13@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The **purpose** of the course is to introduce you to the analytical processes involved in “reading” film narrative. We will cover three major areas: fictional, documentary and experimental filmmaking.

On a broader level this course delivers experiences that should help you expand your ability to:

Think creatively

Develop your ideas through collaborative and lateral thinking processes
articulate core meaning and thematic concepts in existing films and
your own work

Understand the context behind your personal point-of-view and to look
empathetically at other global cultures whose context may be
quite different from your own.

GOALS

I. FILM LANGUAGE AND STRUCTURES

A successful student will be able to understand and clearly articulate their understanding of film stories through the following modes of analysis:

- THE FOUR COMPONENT AREAS
- Dramatic
- Filmic
- Structural
- Literary
- GENRE DESCRIPTION/ CLASSIC PLOT MODELS
- NORTHRUP FRYE’S MODES OF NARRATIVE (HERO)
- ROBERT MCKEE’S STORY TRIANGLE
- FOUR MODES OF DOCUMENTARY

II. THE WORLD INSIDE—YOUR POINT-OF-VIEW AND CANONICAL STATE

Through the principles that broaden your understanding of the idea of storytelling, you will be able to articulate the nature of your “world view” as well as themes, characters and types of stories that might emerge from someone like yourself. These principle are based in:

- THE THREE LEVELS OF READING
- FOLK PSYCHOLOGY
- THE CANONICAL STATE OF BEING
- THE IDEA OF “CORE”
- STORYTELLING AS A MEANING-MAKING PROCESS

III. THE WORLD OUTSIDE—THE DEVELOPMENT OF EMPATHY

By focusing on other cultures (outside and inside of our own country) and their stories you will be able to compare and contrast your context with theirs and therefore open up your mind to what stories might mean to them and you.

!!!! IMPORTANT!!!!

TEXT & MATERIALS

There is no required text for the class, but the class requires viewing of films that are to be your responsibility. This means having access to them via Netflix, iTunes, Amazon, or some other source from which you can access the materials. The rest of the material is available in documents and video packages that will be found on our Moodle shell.

There are a total of FOURTEEN Weekly Units that are to be completed in sequential order. Each unit has video material, documents and a movie to view. This is not a small amount of material so the best advice I have is: ***get started on your work early in the week and make sure to get movies lined up in advance!***

For the sake of consistency, each week will be structured in a similar manner:

Materials to study:

1) **Murph Videos:** These instructional mini-lectures are from 3-6 minutes in length and get at the main focus of a given week's work. I highly recommend viewing each one at least twice—once before you read the week's documents and then once after!

2) **Weekly documents:** These offer more detail than be contained in a short video and include the major vocabulary and concepts for the class.

3) **Film Clips:** Sections of films referenced in the class live here in for purposes of re-viewing them.

4) **Additional Resources:** This area gives you the opportunity to expand your research into film and additional topics generated through assignments and forums.

5) **The Core Forum:** This is our central "meeting place," the only spot where we will access the group as a whole. It is for me to express more information than may be gotten in the materials themselves. It is a place for you to ask questions of me or of your classmates. You will notice that there are no points, but I consider it to be a place where I can get to know you and that is a big help when it comes to understanding how to address your particular thoughts and challenges. It also might be called "classroom participation." It's a good place for me to look if I'm wavering between one grade and another at the end of the semester to see where your level of engagement is at.

Weekly Activities:

1) **Assignments (450-600 wds. 4pts. each)** Each week will have a written assignment due by the end of that week, which is always by Sunday night before 11:55 pm. The criteria for each week and length of the assignment will be found through the link in the Assignment area for the week.

Please Note:

When up-loading assignments please use the ***following file formats only:***

.doc .docx .pdf .jpeg or quicktime media files

****IMPORTANT****

When up-loading assignments use the following **format for file name:**

 Lastname_Assignment#.format

Example: My first assignment for unit one should look like:

 Murphy_assignment1.doc

2) Weekly/Daily Quizzes (2pts. each) *Each week* of the course, a quiz will be available to take beginning Monday morning and closing the following Sunday night 11:55 pm.. You will be allowed three attempts at each quiz. **There are no attempts receiving credit after a given quiz is closed.**

POINTS FOR THIS CLASS

| MAR 101L Points Distribution | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Assignments (12 @ 4pts.) | 48 pts. |
| Weekly Quizzes (12 @ 3pts.) | 36 pts. |
| Online Final Test | 16 pts. |
| Total Points for the semester | 100 pts. |

Weekly Instructions

There is only one event separate from these—**your online Final Test**. Criteria for that will be available as we get nearer time to complete the test.

!!!DEADLINES AND LATE WORK!!!

!!!! Each week's/day's work is to be completed DURING THAT WEEK/DAY! The only possibility for turning in LATE WORK is with Weekly/Daily Assignments. If you turn an ASSIGNMENT in during the week/day after its due date you may receive up to 50% of the points allotted for that assignment. However NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT "GRACE WEEK/DAY."

A NOTE ON VIEWING FILMS!! VERY IMPORTANT!!

We are in a brave new world of the film "experience." All of the movies we will be viewing this term were intended to be watched in the company of strangers, in a darkened theater. YOU, however, can watch them on your computer, and if you have a laptop, tablet, or smartphone, you could be just about anywhere – your living room, a café, the back of a car – and along with this comes infinite distractions. Out of respect for the films, filmmakers, and your own education (which, after all, is a big part of what we are all here for), please be a conscientious viewer. Minimize your distractions: turn off your phone, close the door, dim the lights. Do your best to watch these films without interruptions, as they were intended to be seen. You'll be glad you did!

ATTENDANCE AND THE ACADEMIC CODE

Each week's work is to be completed DURING THAT WEEK! *IF YOU MISS A FORUM DEADLINE, YOU WILL RECEIVE NO CREDIT.* If you turn an ASSIGNMENT in during the week after it is due, you may receive up to

(i.e., a MAXIMUM) of 50% of the points for that assignment. However, NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT "GRACE WEEK." All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/vpsa/index.cfm/page/1339>

STUDENTS NEEDING ACCOMMODATIONS SHOULD INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR & T.A.

Students with disabilities who may need accommodations for this class are encouraged to notify the instructor or TA and contact the Disability Services for Students (DSS) early in the semester so that reasonable accommodations may be implemented as soon as possible. Students may contact DSS by visiting the Center (located in the Lommasson Center Room 154) or by phoning 243-2243 (voice) or e-mailing dss@umontana.edu). All information will remain confidential.