

ENGLISH 115:

FILM AS LIT

W2015

Item 1218

T/Th, 12:30-2:40



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## Course Description:

Introduces the critical study of the motion picture as an expressive medium comparable to literary art. Students focus on cultural tradition and values. Instructor note: we will especially be concerned with women on film: female direction vs. male direction, representations of “the female” across that gender (and cultural) divide, the business of film as it relates to women, and what constitutes a “woman’s film.”

## Course Prerequisites:

Recommended: ENGL& 101 placement or higher.

## Outcomes:

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Understand and apply concepts of visual literacy, including lighting, camera angle, duration of shot, composition, etc.
- Identify and discuss principles of narrative, particularly the relationship of shot, scene, and sequence.
- Understand the history of film and the impact of technological advances.
- Identify and analyze the conventions of various film genres and how audience expectations and generic conventions work together to determine and convey a given message.
- Understand and apply principles of literary/film criticism. Understand the different schools of film criticism.
- Understand how a story can be adapted from one medium to another; identify the advantages unique to each medium.
- Identify the values and assumptions behind a film’s ideology and examine the cultural context within which a film was created.
- Identify and analyze one’s own cultural preconceptions and biases.

## Required Texts:

**FILM AS LITERATURE** Custom Reader (ONLY available in the campus bookstore)

Other readings/ handouts as assigned (available via the Canvas Course Management System)

At the midterm, we will be going on a field trip to see a movie at AMC Loews Factoria 8. You will need cash for a ticket and/ or snacks (between \$7 and \$15).

# Writing/Presentation Assignments (500 points):

## 1. 5 Quizzes (20 points each)

There will be five unannounced quizzes, covering the assigned readings. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of the class (in the first ten minutes), and will involve definitions and answers to questions.

Note: **You cannot make up a quiz!** Also, if you are late for class, you will not be given more class time to complete the quiz.

## 2. Informal Individual Presentations (100 pts)

Each of you will deliver a brief oral report at the beginning of the class. This is a 5-10-minute, in-class presentation based on that week's topics. You may choose a topic from a list I will pass in the second week of class, and there will be a sign-up sheet, so that you can choose the topic and date that best suit your preferences.

## 3. Informal Group Presentation (100 points)

You will participate in a collaborative project to be presented in class. The class will be divided into groups of two or three, and members of each group will have to work together on a project which involves choosing a new movie, and introducing it to the class. You will have to prepare both an oral presentation, and audio-visual materials (handouts optional). There will be a sign-up sheet for this, too.

## 4. Exams (200 points)

There will be an in-class midterm essay exam and a final exam essay that I will assign during week 1 of class. The exams will include identifications of film terms, and short comprehension and essay questions on the content of the required readings/film screenings, and class lectures and discussions.

# Attendance & Participation (100 points):

Regular, active, and meaningful participation is a critically important component of this course and is essential to your success. Frequency and quality of participation will affect your grade. You are allowed up to 1 unexcused absence for the semester (one day of class, or 4 hours); after that, your final semester grade will be lowered for every absence by 5 pts for each absence.

Non-penalized absences: There will be no penalty for a student who is absent from academic activities because of religious holy day observances in his/her own faith, the student's serious illness, death in immediate family, or attendance to statutory governmental responsibilities. The student should notify me in advance of an absence and is the student's responsibility to make up the work missed.

Registration Revision (NEW as of Winter 2014): During the first week of class, you must attend the first class meeting, or you will be reported as a no-show and be administratively withdrawn from the course. The only way to receive a refund is to drop the course within the first week (the official add/drop period). If you do not complete the requirements of the first week of class, you should drop the course by the deadline or expect to pay for the course.

It is very important for you to actively participate in this class. If you stop attending class prior to the withdrawal date, you will be administratively withdrawn from class and receive an IW.

If you stop attending class after the withdrawal date, you will receive an F. To avoid this situation, you should remain an active learner in this class and always communicate extenuating circumstances to me. Ongoing communication with me is critical to your course success.

**Last Day to Withdraw:** In order to withdraw from a course it is not sufficient simply to stop attending class or to inform the instructor of your intention to withdraw. Please consult the BC Academic Calendar and remember that it is each student’s responsibility to withdraw from the course before the deadline.

**Grading Policy:**

- Quizzes 100 pts
- Attendance and Participation 100 pts
- Individual Presentation 100 pts
- Midterm Essay Exam: 100pts
- Collaborative Presentation 100 pts
- Final Exam (Essay): 100 pts

Total 100% (total earned/ 600 total pts)
<b>Grading Scale</b>
<b>90-100% = A</b>
<b>80-89% = B</b>
<b>70-79% = C</b>
<b>60-69% = D</b>
<b>59% and below = F</b>

**Instructor Communication:**

I am here to help you learn, and I hope you know that you can ask questions about grades, assignments, progress, etc, at any point. I am available to talk during office hours (my preference) or via email, as sometimes people want to try and grab me right before or after class – those are not good times because my brain is on a million different things then. I need to be able to focus on your concern/ comment, and office hours or an email allow me to do that.

If you do email, it is important that you know that I do not check email after 5pm on weekdays or at all on weekends. If you message me during those times, you will need to wait until the next morning or the next Monday morning for a reply.

NOTE: If you are struggling with an assignment or anticipate a reason you may miss a deadline, please see me about a) success strategies or b) a reasonable extension. I’m not a monster, but you do need to communicate with me so that I best know how to help you be successful.

## Diversity & Safety Policy:

Please review the Bellevue College “Affirmation of Inclusion” statement:

“Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>”

By the nature of registering for courses here, you indicate your understanding of this statement. Very often, school is the only place of safety for individuals. One of the reasons I have chosen to be at Bellevue College is the very clear Inclusion, Equity and Pluralism policies in place here. I actually find that difference of ideology, religion, cultural practice, etc, enriches me as a human because it forces me to understand my own ideology, religion, cultural practice, etc, even better. Plus, I get to learn about you all as individuals and how these personal things have shaped you as learners and as human beings.

In this classroom, there will be no disrespect around issues including, but not limited to gender (including transgender or gender non-conforming students, as protected under Title IX laws), sexual identity (LGBPTQIA), religion, culture, disability, race and immigrant/ refugee/ undocumented citizenship status.

It is MY job to manage this and ensure that EVERY member of the class is safe, protected and respected, so if an incident occurs, please let me know immediately. You might think I know something has happened, and assume I know when, in fact, I do not. *Remember that offensive talk or actions is not limited to what happens verbally during class but also includes what is written in your assignments, online or via text. These are things I might not always be privy to, so I need you to make me aware of them when they happen.*

## Plagiarism Policy:

The writing you complete in this class will be very hard to steal from someone else, or from an online source. But let me be clear: if you are caught riffing someone else’s ideas, I will report you to the Dean of Student Affairs as per the reporting guidelines on issues of cheating. Simply don’t do it, and if you are concerned that an idea might be too similar, talk with me BEFORE you turn in that assignment.

Please refer to the BC Student Code:

“Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services.”

*The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:*

[http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050\\_Student\\_Code.asp](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp)

A good resource on plagiarism is the BC Writing

Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

## Useful Resources:

### Bellevue College E-mail and Access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>.

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

### Canvas

You can access Canvas, the Course Management system, via <http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/canvas/>.

### Disability Resource Center

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the DRC if you have any questions about classroom accommodations whether you are a student or a faculty member.

If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC staff as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at [www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc](http://www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc)

Remember if you are someone who has either an apparent or non apparent disability and requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

### Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400.

The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency.

Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

### Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>.

College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>.

## Course Schedule:

A note on readings: I encourage you to plan ahead and divide up each week's readings into manageable chunks. Attempting to read all of the selections the day before your journaling entries are due is difficult, but separating them into smaller daily readings should make for a far more pleasant experience. It will also allow you to more fully digest what you've read and apply it to other readings.

This is a rough, incomplete schedule and will be updated on Canvas as needed. Please consult Canvas for the most up-to-date version of the calendar.

### Week 1

Introductions + Bechdel Test + Short Films of Maya Deren + Feminism & Film + Mulvey's "Visual Pleasure & Narrative Cinema"

### Week 2

SPIRITED AWAY + anime

### Week 3

BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD

### Week 4

WINTER'S BONE

### Week 5

EVE'S BAYOU

### Week 6

JUPITER ASCENDING (FIELD TRIP!) + Midterm Exam (DOTTIE GETS SPANKED and MA VIE EN ROSE)

### Week 7

LAJJA + Bollywood + Gaines' "White Privilege and Looking Relations: Race & Gender in Feminist Film Theory"

### Week 8

ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER

### Week 9

SAVING FACE

### Week 10

FRIDA

### Week 11

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BABY JANE? + hagsploitation  
Final Exam: BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S