Department:

English

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the history and conventions of narrative film. The focus of the course will be on narrative form and film’s story-telling techniques and capabilities.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the fundamentals of narrative form, including plot structure, point of view, characterization, and theme.
2. Explain the importance of conflict and complication in a story.
3. For specific films, identify the conflicts, explain the relationship between the conflicts and events of the narrative, and describe how the film deals with resolution of the conflict.
4. Explain basic conventions of silent film making in terms of telling a story.
5. Describe the effect of the introduction of sound in films.
6. Compare the story-telling capabilities of film to written literature.
7. Identify basic conventions of narrative film, including flashback, montage, editing techniques, and imagery.
8. Explain the importance and influence of specific films considered significant in the history of narrative film development.
9. Discuss the international scope of narrative film making in terms of cultural differences and similarities.
10. Write a coherent critical reaction to a narrative film.

Course Content:

A. The Beginning of Cinema
B. Narrative and Montage
C. Advent of Talkies
D. New Order in Hollywood
E. The Studio Era
F. Hollywood and World War II
G. Censorship
H. Genres and Design
I. Scripting and Planning a Movie
J. Cinematography
K. Hollywood and the Cold War
L. Editing
M. Characterization
N. Theme and Motif
O. The New Hollywood

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by the use of reaction or analysis papers, participation in class discussion, mid-term exam, and final exam.

Instructional Materials:

Selected films representing the development and techniques of narrative film.

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.