
Calumet College



of Saint Joseph

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Calumet College of St. Joseph is a Catholic institution of higher learning dedicated to the academic, spiritual and ethical development of undergraduate and graduate students. Informed by the values of its founding religious community, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.), the College promotes the inherent dignity of all people, social justice, an ethic of service, student empowerment, opportunity, and lifelong learning.

We are committed to the Five Pillars of a CCSJ Education: The CCSJ graduate will be Open to Growth, Intellectually Competent, Religious, Loving, and Committed to Doing Justice. This class, as outlined below, will help you to achieve those goals.

COURSE SYLLABUS, fall 2019

Course: ARTS/EWPC 273A—American Cinema

Instructor Information:	
Instructor Name	Walter Skiba
Office Number:	524
Phone Number:	(219) 473-4270
Email:	wskiba@ccsj.edu
Office Hours:	TR 10 a.m.-12 noon, 2-3 p.m.
Instructor Background: Education: Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Theater, St. Joseph's College Calumet Campus; Master of Arts in Theater, University of Connecticut; Master of Music, Roosevelt University. Positions at CCSJ: Associate Professor of Arts and Humanities (adjunct) Activities: continuing special project to research and write a history of CCSJ and help build an archive.	

Course Information:	
Course Time:	TR 12-1:30 p.m.
Classroom:	315
Prerequisites:	None
Required Books and Materials:	<p>Sikov, Ed. American Cinema Study Guide, Fourth Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2012</p> <p>Discussion questions and other handouts on specified movies and units, posted in Blackboard (some distributed in class)</p> <p>To access the Blackboard site, go to www.ccsj.edu/blackboard and follow login procedures.</p> <p>Available on reserve: Belton, John. American Cinema/American Culture, Fourth Edition. McGraw-Hill, 2012</p>
Learning Outcomes/ Competencies:	
<p><i>This course meets the following objectives:</i> Students in this course will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquire knowledge of some major developments in American film history, including the origins of cinema, the studio system, the star system, and technological innovations. • learn the essential elements of the classical Hollywood style and analyze their use or non-use in films viewed for this class. • increase their appreciation and understanding of diverse styles, genres and periods. • recognize and use basic technical and critical vocabulary of motion pictures. • make connections between film technology and artistry. • learn the basic elements of the economic structure of the film industry. • understand the historical context, characteristics and conventions of genres such as the western, musical, romantic comedy, war film, film noir, and discuss their embodiment in specific films. • develop a more sophisticated conception of “realism” as it relates to motion pictures. • question their role as passive spectators and increase their ability to watch films actively and critically. • speak and write effectively about films viewed for this class, making use of critical thinking skills such as interpretation, analysis, comparison and evaluation. • apply these skills to an oral presentation on a chosen film not previously viewed for class. 	

This course reinforces the following Digital and Studio Arts Program objectives:

Students in this course will...

- understand the fundamentals of visual communication, including the development and placement of focal points, the principles of effective composition, and the uses of color.
- know the history of art and visual communication, from the prehistorical and ancient roots to post-modern eras, including major artists, classic works, and significant art movements.

This course reinforces the following English Program objectives:

Students in this course will...

- know the principal authors, works, genres, periods, movements, and terms in the Western literary and professional communication traditions.
- analyze a variety of complex nonfiction, literary and professional communications on both global-structural and local-sentence levels.

This course also introduces the following General Education Program objectives:

Students in this course will...

- write in a variety of forms using valid logic, persuasive rhetoric, and correct grammar, usage, and punctuation.
- be able to orally deliver a presentation with a clear central idea that is logically developed, supported by convincing evidence and valid reasoning, and expressed using language and delivery choices thoughtfully adapted to the audience.
- appreciate, create, and critique the persuasive power of art and media.

Course Description:

This class presents an overview of the history of American cinema and several representative genres. Topics covered include the Hollywood style, film techniques, the studio system, the star system, the viewing of films and their relationship to society as a medium. Students view and study specific films coordinated with Study Guide units.

Learning Strategies:

1. Brief lectures to introduce films and draw connections with reading assignments
2. Viewing of films and clips with occasional instructor commentary
3. Self-tests that address important concepts in text and study guide
4. In-class quizzes that reinforce and help clarify key elements of reading assignments and instructional videos
5. Large and small group discussions of films
6. Small-group and individual written reports/reviews that address discussion topics in handouts

Grading Scale:

100% - 92%: A	91% - 90%: A-	
89% - 88%: B+	87% - 82%: B	81% - 80%: B-
79% - 78%: C+	77% - 72%: C	71% - 70%: C-
69% - 68%: D+	67% - 62%: D	61% - 60%: D-
59% and below: F		

Course Schedule:

Aug. 27-29—introduction to course; The Story of Film: An Odyssey, episode 1--1895-1918: The World Discovers a New Art Form, discussion and in-class note-taking assignment (2 bonus pts.)

Sept. 3-5 --The Hollywood Style (foundation unit)

Reading: Sikov Study Guide (SG)—Unit 1: Belton Textbook (T)—Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Optional viewing: Tape 101

Film: The Great Gatsby (2013)

Sept. 10-12—The Hollywood Style (cont.)

Film: Hidden Figures (2016)

Sept. 17-19— The Studio System

SG—Unit 2; T—Chap. 4

Tape 102

Film: Robin Hood (1938)

Sept. 24-26—The Studio System (cont.)

The Hero's (or Protagonist's) Journey; reading and video

Film: Casablanca (1942)

Oct. 1-3--The Star System (featuring silent film stars)

SG—Unit 3; T—Chap. 5

Tape 103

The Story of Film: An Odyssey, episode 2: 1918-1928 (excerpt)

Films: The Kid (1921), Shoes (1916)

Oct. 8-10--The Western

SG—Unit 4; T—Chap. 11

Tape 104

Film: The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962)

Oct. 15-17—The Musical

SG—Unit 5; T—Chap. 7

Video on use of music in film

Film: Top Hat (1935)

Oct. 22-24--American Comedy

SG—Unit 6; T—Chap. 8
Tape 105
Film: Some Like It Hot (1959)

Oct. 29-31—Humanities Fest
Theme: Ghost
Film: The Others (2001)
Film: The Time of Their Lives (1946), Abbott and Costello (R 1:45-3:15)

Nov. 5-7—War and Cinema
SG—Unit 7; T—Chap. 9
Tape 106
Film: Testament of Youth (2014)

Nov. 12-14--Film Noir
SG—Unit 8; T—Chap. 10
Tape 107
Films: Laura (1944) or Chinatown (1973)
Directions for speech assignment

Nov. 19-21--Hollywood in the Age of Television
SG—Unit 10; T—Chap. 14
Tape 108
Film: Dial M for Murder (1954)

Nov 26-28—Fall Break (Thanksgiving week)

Dec. 3-5 ---The Film School Generation (recent films)
SG—Unit 11 T—Chap. 16
Tape 109
—Into the 21st Century
SG—Unit 12; T—Chap. 17
Tape 110 (Independent Films)
Film: Field of Dreams (1989), The Shape of Water (2017) or Green Book (2018), in-class responses to discussion questions
Take-home portion of final test distributed, due Dec. 13

Dec. 10-12—Speech presentations on chosen films not screened in class; in-class portion of final test

Note: I reserve the right to change this schedule to meet the needs of the class. Reminders and adjustments will be announced in class and posted in Blackboard. Other films may be selected in place of titles listed.

Some movies studied in class will be on room-use reserve in the Specker Library. These and other films may be available through video rental outlets, online services, or public libraries. Call ahead or check online.

Study tips: Create a semester-long schedule with blocks of time set aside for reading, viewing and writing. Make weekly and daily adjustments for special events, obligations, priorities, etc. Take notes during class.

Responsibilities	
Attending Class	<p>You cannot succeed in this class if you do not attend. We believe that intellectual growth and success in higher education occur through interaction in the classroom and laboratories. Being absent doesn't excuse you from doing class work; you have more responsibilities to keep up and meet the objectives of this course.</p> <p>Attendance in this class matters because you need to view films in order to talk or write about them, you cannot engage in discussion or other activities if you are not present, and you will likely miss important information.</p> <p>Three (3) absences are allowed for personal reasons (with instructor notification), required participation in college-sponsored events, such as athletics, or jury duty (provide official notification). All other absences incur a deduction of 2 points each in the class participation component of your final grade.</p>
Turning In Your Work	<p>You cannot succeed in this class if you do not turn in all your work when due.</p> <p>Self-tests are due at the beginning of class on assigned Study Guide unit. Responses to discussion questions are due the class immediately following the screening. Late assignments may be accepted, with instructor approval, up to one week past the due date. Points will be lost for assignments not made up.</p> <p>Self-tests and movie reports/reviews must be typed and double-spaced, 12 or 14 pt. font preferred. The following items should appear in the upper right-hand corner of the first page:</p> <p>-- (for movie discussion questions) student's name, title of film, Study Guide unit number, date</p> <p>-- (for self-tests) student's name, Study Guide unit number, date</p>

<p>Meeting Standards for Classroom Behavior</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use all the class time. Come to class on time and stay in class until the end. Coming late, leaving early, and getting up during class disrupts the class and disrespects others. • Come prepared. Bring your texts, be prepared to take notes, and be able to demonstrate that you have completed the assignments for the day through your participation in class. • Respect others. Listen when your classmates and the instructor are speaking. Think about their contributions. Respond appropriately. • Use electronic devices only for class purposes. Engage with your classmates and the instructor without technological distractions. If you violate this rule, you will be given a fair warning. If you continue to violate this rule, you will be asked to leave, in which case you will be marked absent. Exceptions for family emergencies, job requirements or special needs must be cleared with me in advance. Headphones and ear pieces are not allowed. <p>Classroom decorum and mutual respect: In our class: 1) everyone is allowed to feel they can work and learn in a safe and caring environment; 2) everyone learns about, understands, appreciates, and respects varied races, ethnicities, classes, genders, physical and mental abilities; 3) everyone matters; 4) all individuals are to be respected and treated with dignity and civility; and 5) everyone shares the responsibility for making our class, and CCSJ, a positive and better place to work and learn.</p> <p>Comments and questions are encouraged or solicited during film introductions and follow-up discussions, but only one person talks at a time. You are expected to arrive in class on time, stay for the entire period, and engage in all activities. Leaving and re-entering the room during class is distracting, sometimes disruptive; it is not allowed except in unusual circumstances. Sidebar conversations, sleeping and unauthorized use of electronic devices are out of place. Food and beverages may be allowed with specified restrictions. A 5-minute break may be given as needed. You may use electronic devices during this time.</p> <p>I will give a student who engages in any inappropriate or disruptive behavior a verbal warning. (Disruptive behavior interferes with the normal operation of the class.) If the offending behavior persists, I will ask the student to leave the class and will later notify the Dean of Students, athletic coach or academic advisor. To be allowed back into class, the student must first meet with me, acknowledge the</p>
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	<p>inappropriateness of the behavior, and agree not to engage in it again. If any kind of unacceptable behavior continues, I will request that the student withdraw voluntarily or be withdrawn administratively from the class.</p> <p>I make the final determination of what is considered unacceptable classroom behavior.</p> <p>You are responsible for maintaining eligibility requirements for scholarships, financial aid or athletics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>CCSJ Student Honor Code</p>	<p>This course asks students to reaffirm the CCSJ Student Honor Code:</p> <p>I, as a student member of the Calumet College academic community, in accordance with the college's mission and in a spirit of mutual respect, pledge to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuously embrace honesty and curiosity in the pursuit of my educational goals; • Avoid all behaviors that could impede or distract from the academic progress of myself or other members of my community; • Do my own work with integrity at all times, in accordance with syllabi, and without giving or receiving inappropriate aid; • Do my utmost to act with commitment, inside and outside of class, to the goals and mission of Calumet College of St. Joseph.
<p>Doing Your Own Work</p>	<p>If you turn in work that is not your own, you will be subject to judicial review by the Faculty-Student Grievance Committee. These procedures can be found in the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.</p> <p>Using standard citation guidelines to document sources avoids plagiarism. You'll find guides to the major citation methods at the CCSJ Specker Library Web page at http://www.ccsj.edu/library/subjectsplus/subjects/guide.php?subject=cite</p> <p>PLEASE NOTE: All papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.</p>
<p>Sharing Your Class Experience</p>	<p>Your voice matters! At the end of the term, you will have the opportunity to evaluate your classroom experience. These confidential surveys are essential to our ongoing efforts to ensure that you have a great experience that leaves you well</p>

	prepared for your future. Take the time to complete your course evaluations – we value your feedback!
Withdrawing from Class	After the last day established for class changes has passed (see the College calendar in the CCSJ Course Catalog), you may withdraw from a course by following the policy outlined in the Course Catalog.

Resources	
CCSJ Book Rental Program	The CCSJ Book Program ensures that everyone has the right course materials on the first day of class to be successful. You pay a book rental fee each semester, and in return, receive all the materials for all your classes prior to the beginning of classes. At the end of the semester, simply return the books. For traditional students, the Book Rental Program is conveniently located in the library, where students can pick up and return their books. For students in accelerated programs and graduate programs, books will be delivered to their homes and they can return them by mail. For more information, see http://www.ccsj.edu/bookstore . All books must be returned at the end of the semester or you will incur additional fees, which will be charged to your student account.
Student Success Center	The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help you master specific subjects and develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. You can contact the Student Success Center at 219 473-4287 or stop by the Library.
Disability Services	Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic services in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If you believe that you need a “reasonable accommodation” because of a disability, contact the Disability Services Coordinator at 219-473-4349.
Student Assistance Program	Through a partnership with Crown Counseling , Calumet College of St. Joseph provides a free Student Assistance Program (SAP) to current students. The SAP is a confidential counseling service provided to students for personal and school concerns which may be interfering with academic performance and/or quality of life. The SAP counselor is available on campus once a week and off-site at the Crown Counseling offices in Crown Point or Hammond. For more information, contact Kerry Knowles SAP Counselor , at 219-663-6353 (office), 219-413-3702 (cell), or kerryk@crowncounseling.org .
CCSJ Alerts	Calumet College of St. Joseph’s emergency communications system will tell you about emergencies,

	weather-related closings, or other incidents via text, email, or voice messages. Please sign up for this important service annually on the College's website at: http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html .
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