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**Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC)**

**Fall 2019**

Liberal Arts

**Code:** Cinema 109

**Meeting Days:** Distance Education

**Title:** American Cinema

**Credits:** 3

**Email:** [wwend@rcbc.edu](mailto:wwend@rcbc.edu)

**Phone:** 856-222-9311 #1401

**Professor:** William Patrick Wend

**Office Hours:** My office is Laurel 113. My office hours are 1230pm-130pm on Monday-Thursday.

**Response Time:** I primarily respond to email during office hours within 48 business hours after the email has been received. If you do not receive a response, please resend your email. **I am not in my email during the weekend.**

**SECTION 1: Course Information**

**Course Description:**

This course examines how business savvy, creativity, and technical skills drive the film industry. Studio executives, directors, cinematographers, and others share their thought and experiences. Clips from over 300 movies demonstrate why movies continue to captivate audiences.

**Required Texts and other Materials:**

- American Cinema by John Belton (ISBN: 9780073513291)
- Films For Assigned Papers
- Additional Materials Supplied By Professor
- An RCBC Student ID Card
- An RCBC Library Card

**\*NOTE ON READINGS** Some of the material we will cover this semester may contain adult themes and/or adult content, explicit language, sexual themes or images, etc. It is understood that these elements are part of the creative construction of the text, and do not represent the views of the instructor. Likewise, it is understood that students will approach this content with a mature attitude. **If any of the above is of concern (personally, morally, or ethically) please let me know as soon as possible. Together we can find a way for you to engage with the course material in a way that is comfortable for everyone.**

## **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of Cinema 109, you should be able to:

- Recognize and explain essential elements of film language, such as mise en scene, basic camera, lighting, and editing techniques, and cinematic uses of sound. This knowledge will provide a solid foundation for any future film appreciation or film/video production courses, or for entry –level jobs as television studios and video production houses.
- Recognize typical narrative and visual styles of Hollywood movies from specific time periods, especially since the 1950's.
- Recognize and analyze characteristics of familiar Hollywood film genres, such as romantic comedy, the Western, science fiction, and film noir.
- Recognize the interrelationship between the popularity of Hollywood genres and events in American society during specific time periods.
- Be able to see beneath the surface story and identify deeper layers of meaning in films screened for this course, particularly as they relate to cultural, historical, or cinematic themes the instructor chooses to emphasize.
- Write clearly, coherently and convincingly about films screened for this course. Be able to ask well-constructed questions and make intelligent comments.

## **General Education Outcomes:**

### **Written and Oral Communication: Communication**

- Students will logically and persuasively support their points of view or findings.
- Students will communicate meaningfully with a chosen audience while demonstrating critical thought.

### **Technological Competency or Information Literacy: Technology**

- Students will demonstrate competency in office productivity tools appropriate to continuing their education.
- Students will use critical thinking skills for computer-based access, analysis, and presentation of information.
- Students will exhibit competency in library online database tools appropriate to accessing information in reference publications, periodicals and bibliographies.
- Students will demonstrate the skills required to find, evaluate, and apply information to solve a problem.

## **Ethical Reasoning and Action**

- Students will analyze and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different perspectives on an ethical issue or a situation.
- Students will take a position on an ethical issue or a situation and defend it.

**Core Course Content:**

- Mise en Scene
- Camera and Lighting
- Editing Sound
- Hollywood “studio system”
- Hollywood narrative style
- Hollywood visual style
- Romantic Comedy
- The Western
- Science Fiction/Horror
- Film Noir
- The Coming-of-Age Experience in Hollywood Films
- Quest and Conquest: The American Story
- The Outsider: the Search for American Identity
- Ethnic Diversity in Contemporary American Films
- The Family Experience in American Film
- America’s New Wave of the 70’s
- Ideology, Feminism, and Auteur theories
- Myths and Archetypes: Hero’s Journey

**SECTION 2: Course Policies, Assessments, Grading**

**Attendance:** Students are required to attend all class sessions for the full duration of each such instructional session. Grade penalties for absences will be imposed when a student exceeds a ten-percent absence rate (in the case of 15-week English 101 courses, starting with the third absence). The policy can be [accessed here](#).

You do not "attend" a distance learning course in the traditional manner, but there are still some concerns we need to address in regards to this issue. Despite this not being a "face to face" course, all assignments, papers, etc, need to be complete by the due dates listed on the syllabus and assignment description pages. No work is optional. There is no extra credit. You can expect to spend anywhere between six to ten hours per week reading and writing for this course. If you spend less time on this course, it will be difficult to earn a passing grade. (*Updated by SB Fall 2012 With Administrative Addition Fall 2014/6*)

**Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism:** RCBC is committed to maintaining a culture of academic integrity where members are expected to adhere to fundamental values in both academic and nonacademic endeavors. For the purpose of this code, academic integrity is defined as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to these fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. It is the belief of RCBC that these values form principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideas to action. The Academic Integrity policy can be accessed [here](#).

Specifically, the term “**plagiarism**” includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work or sections of a work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment, whether intentional or not. This includes any material copied directly or paraphrased from the internet. Plagiarism also constitutes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials, including material taken from or ordered through the Internet.

For more information on academic dishonesty/plagiarism see Board Policy #903-C. Malicious plagiarism that results in a 0% on an assignment will be reported to the appropriate college authorities.

**Assessment Methods:**

Course Contribution 10%

Discussion Forums 25%

Film Journal 20%

Term Paper 25%

Topical Threads 15%

**There Is No Extra Credit.** See individual assignments for instructions.

A=100-90

B+=89-86

B=85-80

C+=79-76

C=75-70

D=65-69

F=64-0

\*\*\*Final Grades For The Course Are Posted To Web Adviser...The Blackboard Gradebook Is Not An “Official” Gradebook...I Have Set The Course Up So You Should Be Able To Figure Out Your Grade As We Go...If You Have Questions About Your Current Grade Please Get In Touch\*\*\*

**Criteria for meeting grade determination are as follows:**

- **A:** Meeting course goals by demonstrating perceptive understanding of readings and course concepts; excellence and originality in compositions; superior scores on exams and other assigned work; active participation in class discussion and small groups; and compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.
- **B+/B:** Meeting course goals by demonstrating mastery of subject and concepts; above average quality in compositions and exams; good participation in class and small groups; and compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.
- **C+/C:** Meeting course goals by demonstrating a satisfactory level of understanding of subject material and concepts; acceptable quality in compositions and exams; adequate participation in class and small groups; and compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.
- **D:** Not meeting all of the course goals; minimal knowledge of subject material and concepts; marginal quality in compositions (poor quality of development, support, or grammar); poor performance on exams; passivity in class and small groups; non-compliance with attendance and assignment requirements.
- **F:** Not meeting course goals; unsatisfactory progress in understanding and applying subject material and concepts; incomplete or unacceptable work in compositions (gross grammatical, developmental, and structural errors); failure of exams; non-compliance of attendance and assignment requirements.

**Course Schedule:** This Course Breaks Up Into Two Modules...

**Part One (All Of This Is Due Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>)**

- Introduce Yourself On The Forum.
- Complete Discussions For Chapters One Through Nine.
- Complete The First Five Film Journal Entries.
- Begin Thinking About A Film and Chapter For Your Term Paper.
- Complete Topical Threads.

**Part Two (All Of This Is Due Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>)**

- Complete Discussions For Chapters Ten Through Seventeen.
- Complete The Second Five Film Journal Entries.
- Begin, If You Have Not, Working On Your Term Paper and Complete It.

### **SECTION 3: College Information**

**College Policies:** In order for students to know their rights and responsibilities, all students are expected to review and adhere to all regulations and policies as listed in the College Catalog and Handbook. These documents can be accessed at <http://www.rcbc.edu/academic-resources>. Important policies and regulations include, but are not limited, to the following:

- College Attendance Policy
- Grading Standards
- Withdraw (W) and Incomplete Grades (I & X)
- Withdrawal date for this semester
- Student Code of Conduct
- Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism and Civility
- Use of Communication and Information Technology
- College Attendance Policy
  - Students are required to attend all class, clinical, laboratory, and studio sessions for the full duration of each such instructional session. Faculty are required to take attendance, and grade penalties for absence will be imposed when a student exceeds a ten percent absence rate, not to exceed 10% of the final grade. For further information please refer to the current catalog.
- Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism
  - Specifically, the term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work or sections of a work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment, whether intentional or not. This includes any material copied directly or paraphrased from the internet. Plagiarism also constitutes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of a term papers or other academic materials, including material taken from or ordered through the Internet. For more information on academic dishonesty/plagiarism see Board Policy #903-C.

**Office of Student Support and Disability Services:** In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act, the Student Support Services Office's mission is to ensure all students with disabilities are provided access to educational and extracurricular activities while on college premises through support in the form of reasonable accommodations such as adaptive technology, counseling, note-taking assistance, and American Sign Language interpreters. Students who have disabilities must self-identify, provide documentation of disability(ies), attend an intake appointment, and sign a Disability Release Form ([rcbc.edu/studentsupport](http://rcbc.edu/studentsupport)) prior to the start of the semester to ensure reasonable accommodations. For more information please contact the Office of Student Support at ext. 1208. For additional information on this policy please refer to the current catalog.

**Educational Technology Statement:** Rowan College at Burlington County (RCBC) advocates the use of technology to enhance instruction. Students should assume that classroom and online technology will be used throughout their coursework at RCBC, as it will most certainly be used in their future education and careers. The College provides on-campus facilities for the convenience of the RCBC community. Various college departments, including the Office of Information Technology and the Office of Distance Education, provide technology training and assistance to faculty and students.

**Student Success Services:** RCBC offers a variety of free services for its students including those listed below. Descriptions of these services, as well as many others, can be found in the College Catalog and Handbook and on the RCBC website at the following URLs.

- Academic Advisement (<http://rcbc.edu/advising>)
- Career Services (<http://rcbc.edu/careers>)
- Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) (<http://rcbc.edu/eof>)
- Financial Aid (<http://rcbc.edu/financialaid>)
- International Students Office (<http://rcbc.edu/international>)
- Library/Integrated Learning Resource Center (ILRC) (<http://rcbc.edu/library>)
- Office of Veteran Services (<http://rcbc.edu/vets>)
- RCBC Foundation (please view the Foundation web page for scholarship information: <http://rcbc.edu/foundation>)
- RCBC bookstore (<http://www.rcbc.edu/bookstore>)
- Rowan University Partnership (<http://www.rcbc.edu/rowan>)

- Student Support Counseling (<http://www.rcbc.edu/counseling>)
- Tutoring Center (<http://rcbc.edu/tutoring>)
- Test Center (<http://rcbc.edu/testcenter>)
- Transfer Services (<http://www.rcbc.edu/transfer>)

#### **SECTION 4: Instructor Policy**

**Electronic Literacy & Issues of Online Etiquette:** Due to this being a distance learning course, the following skill set is required: Starting and ending programs on a Windows/Macintosh/Linux computer; opening, editing, saving, storing, and backing up files; creating, sending, receiving, and reading email, including attachments; uploading and editing files onto Blackboard. **You must have a Rowan College At Burlington County email account to participate in this class. I do not respond or read email correspondence coming from email accounts outside of the RCBC community.**

Students are expected to check their RCBC email on a regular basis. I do not accept the excuse, "I didn't check my email for two weeks" as a valid problem. Digital correspondence should be written using proper grammar and form. I will not reply to emails filled with texting speak (2, u, 4, lol, j/k) or poor grammar and/or misspellings. Please include a subject and "sign" your email with your name and course section.

Finally, a matter of general respect: I do not tolerate homophobic, misogynistic, ableist, or racist language in the classroom. Please be respectful to your classmates, and me, on the forums.

**Forum Discussions:** You are required to add a post with your thoughts/ideas/etc about the topic with **at least 50 words** and, also, reply to **at least one (1)** of your classmates to each chapter discussion. These discussions are worth 25% of your grade. Please do not repeat observations previously made or reply with "I agree" style sentiments. **Significant points will be taken off your grade for doing this.** If someone has already stated what you wished to say, find a way to expand on their statement, move in another direction, or reply to someone else.

If I find something problematic about your discussions, I will be in touch as soon as possible.

**Writing Policy:** I expect your work to be error free. You are expected to proofread for spelling, mechanics, and grammar. I will mark down for these errors; please revise and proofread often. All papers are to be typed, titled, double spaced, and given page numbers with your last name.

It is the student's responsibility to get in touch with me about their work. I am not responsible for making sure you hand in your assignments; it is yours. Please make sure you are backing up your work to an external hard drive, flash drive, cloud based source or other backup method. I will not accept excuses involving crashed computers or broken files.

Finally, please follow the "24 hour rule" for paper returns. I do not discuss returned student papers until 24 hours have elapsed since I returned them. There will be no discussion in person or via email about them until that time window.

**Extension Policy:** Extensions are gifts, not a right. College work involves responsibility and ownership over your individual situation. With that in mind, here are a few caveats about extensions. First, I need to know 48 hours before an assignment is due if you need an extension. This will be clearly addressed on the class schedule. To apply for an extension, we must speak in person or over email immediately. A rough draft of your paper in progress will be required to be handed in at this time. I will then determine whether to grant or deny the extension and how much time would be allotted for it.

To apply for an extension beyond the 48 hour mark for reasons of hospitalization, bereavement, military service, observance of religious holidays, legal reasons (jury duty, etc), or work related issues (ie: getting called into work at the last minute), written documentation not given before the due date must be in by Saturday night after the due date.

For the following reasons, extensions will not be permitted: Short term illnesses and family vacations. Only one extension will be granted per semester, although an "emergency" extension can be granted under certain circumstances. (Revised Fall 2011 by LD, AF, EF)

**Course Contribution:** I have found in past semesters that "participation" isn't a sufficient means of assessing students. How do you grade shy, or otherwise quiet, students who do very well in your class? At the same time, does a student who does very poorly on papers/quizzes/etc, but "participates" in class deserve a high grade? Instead, I have switched this to an assessment of a student's contribution to the course. How do you do in group work? Are you always on task, or do you take others off task with your actions? Do you bring useful ideas and thoughts into class? Do you go beyond commentary that is intended to please me or make you look smart? Do you experiment, take chances, and offer untested commentary? Do you attend our peer review sessions to not only accentuate your own work, but also help your classmates? Are you punctual and always prepared? Do you do more than just **listen** to me? What about your presence in the class adds to it? These are some of the factors I will consider when assessing your class contribution grade.

**Finally:** Students in my classes are responsible for reading and understanding these course policies. Do you have questions?

- Send me an email: [wwend@rcbc.edu](mailto:wwend@rcbc.edu)
- If you are a student who has progress reports for a sport, EOF, or anything else, I will only fill these out during office hours.
- The syllabus is a living document. Sometimes, things might not work and we will need to make a change. This syllabus is subject to change at all times. Any changes will be announced on Blackboard.



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