

**“Movies and Films”
Film334W - 3 credits
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Spring 2016**

CRN: FLM- 36593

Non-synchronous E-Learning course

Online Portal: <http://classes.uaf.edu>

A. Instructor:

Maya Salganek, Assistant Professor Film/Video Arts
University of Alaska Fairbanks
105B Fine Arts complex, Fairbanks, Alaska.
(907) 388-1080. maya@alaska.edu

B. Communications:

Available via Google Hangout - M-F
Schedule an appointment for a google hangout video chat: <http://tinyurl.com/mayaUAF>
Contact for any concerns should be made 1st via email or google hangout message, or by phone during regular business hours.

C. Required Reading/Supplies:

1. Screened films will also be on reserve at the library for 2hr in library/overnight checkout. Links to films and all readings are on BlackBoard.
2. Students are responsible for seeing each film weekly. Links to rent/stream films are provided in blackboard and on this syllabus (see course schedule “N” on the last page). Some require a rental, while others are available to stream legally for free. Check your local library for films as well.

D. Recommended Reading/Supplies:

Hulu or Netflix or Amazon rental account

Screenplay: Foundations of Screenwriting by Syd Field. Bantam Dell, 2005. ISBN: 9780385339032

Looking at Movies by Richard Barsam. 4rd Edition. W.W. Norton Publishing. ISBN: 9780393934632

Post 9/11 Cinema: Through a Lens Darkly by John Markert. Scarecrow Press, 2011. ISBN: 9780810881341

War and Cinema: The Logistics of Perception by Paul Virilio. Verso Publishing, 1989; ISBN- 0860919285

When the Moon Waxes Red: Representation, Gender, and Cultural Politics.
By Trinh T. Minh-ha. Routledge Press, 1991; ISBN - 0-415-90430-7

E. Course Description

Film is a language constructed of coded symbols that derive meaning through a shared cultural context between filmmaker and the audience.

Students will investigate the means, methods, and styles of visual communication through comparative viewings of various films. Particular attention will be paid to the effectiveness of communicating ideas through film, and the barriers or achievements of filmmakers towards this end, as perceived by you, the audience.

In particular, this course will examine how films and movies create a window into the lives and experiences of others. How we interpret the world as influenced by these films is the focus of reflection in this course. *The thematic topic for this course is adversity and war, and the focus will be largely on films created after 9/11.*

As this is a writing-intensive course, students will be required to write essays based on the films viewed. In addition, students will also be required to write *either*:

1. a research paper (topic must be approved ahead of time), *or*
2. an original screenplay (first 30 pages of feature-length)

DRAFTS of your Final Papers/Screenplays are REQUIRED to be turned in at midterm. Students can turn in subsequent drafts of papers at *any time* and should schedule a follow-up appointment for a week afterwards to discuss the paper with me. Students may resubmit papers with revisions.

General guidelines for 3-credit course with "W" designator as defined by the UAF Faculty Senate:

1. The lower-division writing sequence as specified in the Core Curriculum will be a prerequisite for all "W"-designated courses.
2. Instructors are encouraged to have students write an ungraded diagnostic composition on or near the first day of class to help assess writing ability and general competence in the discipline. [If diagnostic tests indicate that remedial work may be needed, teachers can set up specialized tutoring for their students with UAF Writing Center tutors.]
3. Teachers regularly evaluate students' writing and inform students of their progress. If a major written project (research project) is part of the course, the project should be supervised in stages. If possible, a writing activity should comprise a major portion of the final examination.
4. At least one personal conference should be devoted to the student's writing per term and drafts of papers should receive evaluation from the teacher and/or peers.
5. Written material should comprise a majority of the graded work in the course for it to be designated "intensive." "Written material" can consist of quizzes and exams with short answers or essay sections, journals, field notes, informal responses to reading or class lectures, structured essays, research projects, performance reviews, lab reports, or any forms suitable to the discipline being taught.

F. Goals for course:

1. To enhance a student's ability to speak a cinematic language, including conceptual, visual, directorial, dramaturgical, and mechanical aspects of film production.
2. To enable a student to communicate effectively about film through writing.
3. To introduce students to a multitude of cinematic theory through analysis of diverse films.

G. Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will effectively be able to analyze and articulate the intentions of a film using cinematic language.
2. Students will improve their writing skills while communicating ideas about cinema.
3. Students will gain an appreciation for film and the role it plays to their unique audiences.

H. Instructional methods /Distance Delivery Course Requirements & Support

This course will be taught through distance delivery and will require access to internet with video streaming capabilities, DVD or Blu-Ray player (for screening full-length films as needed), and audio headphones. Links to all required films are provided for internet delivery. However, you may find better quality by renting a DVD or Blu-Ray. Course information, assignments, and updates will be posted on Blackboard. Each student is responsible for communications and assignments on blackboard: <http://www.classes.uaf.edu>. Should you encounter any problems accessing blackboard, or for other technical concerns, please contact UAF Elearning. See section "L." There is also a class website where you can post comments and reactions to the films: <http://film334.community.uaf.edu/>.

I. Course Recommendations for Success

In order to succeed in this course, you will need to set aside a minimum of 12 hours a week for this course for reading and assignments and at least 3 hours for film screenings and reviews. Start by exploring Blackboard and familiarize yourself with the course materials provided there. Please alert me to any issues you may encounter. My weekly recommendation is:

THURSDAY – Locate next movie for screening.

FRIDAY – Read introduction to the film on the class blog.

SAT/SUN – Screen film for week, and take detailed notes. Draft your film question.

MONDAY – Submit Film Question to the Discussion Board. Read film-specific readings. 1st Draft/Outline of writing assignment or exercise.

TUESDAY – Writing assignment research OR review and submission of your homework.

WEDNESDAY – Research/Draft writing of you final paper.

I have been a student advisor at UAF for over 15 years. It takes a dedicated and self-disciplined student to succeed in distance delivery courses. Should you find yourself not able to dedicate time to this course and keep up with weekly assignments, please do not wait to discuss your options with your advisor or me. This course will be offered again Face-to-Face in Fall 2017 at UAF. **Last day to drop the class and receive a 100% refund on tuition is January 29, 2016. Deadline to drop the course and receive a W on your transcript (without a refund) is March 25, 2016.**

J. Course policies/ Honor Code:

Exercise high ethical standards. High ethical standards are expected in this class, as well as in marketing and marketing research; they are key to establishing trust and credibility. The standards in this class adhere to the UAF Code of Conduct:

1. *Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless the course instructor grants permission. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.*
2. *Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.*
3. *No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.*

Alleged violations of the Code of Conduct will be reviewed in accordance with procedures specified in regents' policy, university regulations and UAF rules and procedures. For additional information and details about the Student Code of Conduct, contact the associate vice chancellor for student and enrollment services, visit www.alaska.edu/bor/ or refer to the student handbook that is printed in the back of the class schedule for each semester. Students are encouraged to review the entire code.

(Current UAF Catalog) or

<http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html>

Any students found violating the Code of Conduct in this class will receive a zero for the assignment, will have to resubmit the assignment, and may face other academic consequences as deemed by the instructor, department, and/or university.

I place strict emphasis on students producing original and factual work. Cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication are not tolerated.

Cheating means acting dishonestly, practicing fraud, or deliberately breaking rules when taking a test or within the context of submitting work you claim as your own.

Plagiarism means appropriating passages or ideas from another person's work and using them as your own without crediting the original author.

Fabrication means including an invented statement in your writing.

Any student found cheating or to have plagiarized or fabricated work will receive, at minimum, an automatic 0 points for the assignment, and potentially, for the course. If you are at all unsure about what does, or doesn't, constitute cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication, be sure to ask. If you're confused about these terms and ideas, it's likely other students are too.

Remember to cite Internet resources just as you would quotes from published/printed books or articles. Appearing in electronic form on a web page doesn't make information exempt from the rules that govern when, where, why, and how you should cite references. Copying sections of a website and including the words verbatim as part of an answer to homework assignments is plagiarism - you are representing the words as your own, when in fact, someone else wrote them. If you have copied/pasted material from a website without attributing the words to the original author or source you are plagiarizing. And as you read above, the consequence for plagiarism is failing the course.

If you do cite information or ideas drawn from a published or broadcast printed or electronic source, please follow MLA style requirements as found in the MLA Handbook for writers of Research Papers. See section "Citations" below.

K. Assignments and Expectations

1. Participation

a) Planning, implementation, and evaluation of the course.

It's important for you to be involved with decisions about the direction the class is going and the activities we are pursuing. The most important goal of the class is for you to learn about the subject - HOW we do that is often negotiable. I expect you to take an active role in expressing your opinion about the effectiveness of class assignments, group projects, your text, assigned readings, etc. Of course, to be helpful and constructive, you need to back up your opinions with good arguments and reasons for making your claims. A well-articulated argument goes a long way!

b) Online Postings and Discussions

Discussion questions and threads about each film will be posted, along with your weekly questions and responses to each film. Your active involvement with the class conversation about a film will generate greater understanding for everyone about the film's content, intention, and interpretation.

2. Written Assignments

a) Online Discussion - Worth 50 points total

After each film you will post a question about the film to the online discussion through the website. You will also respond to at least two questions posed by other students throughout the course of the week. Be courteous, constructive, and base your responses off of your own cinematic analysis and research, not off of your opinion. Examples will be provided through blackboard as well.

b) Weekly film essay - worth 40 points each - 400 pts. total

After each film you watch you will respond to the film with a specific writing assignment. These assignments can be found on Blackboard in "Lessons Week by Week" in each film's folder.

- i. Citations** - The ability to communicate ideas clearly is the cornerstone of a great writer and filmmaker. Filmmakers constantly reference other films within their own work as an homage to other artists. It is a compliment to acknowledge your creative and academic influences, and it is plagiarism to not do so. There should never be green M&Ms in the star dressing room. To demonstrate effective analysis, you should plan to organize your ideas

clearly, use correct grammar, spell words and names correctly, and demonstrate that you've thoroughly conceptualized and edited your work.

Work MUST be properly cited or you risk plagiarizing the work of others. Please use the MLA guidelines as a standard form of citation.

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>



c) Research Paper OR Screenplay - worth ~~600~~ points total

By week 4, you will need to decide whether to write a critical research paper, or a screenplay for this course as your final project.

ii. Research paper- Option #1

1. Research Papers will reflect a studious approach to cinema through the lens of critical analysis. Any reflection of the materials covered in class is welcome as a research topic. Research students will need to:

- a. **Submit three research topics with a short summary of investigation of each by 2/8.**
- b. **Submit an annotated bibliography** with research sources and summaries of each resource by 2/22.
- c. **Submit a Draft paper of their research topic** for feedback and review by 3/28.
- d. **Discuss research paper revisions with instructor by 4/15**
- e. **Submit final paper of 15 pages by 5/5.**

iii. Screenplay - Option #1

1. Screenplays will be developed from idea to structure, as influenced by films and theories encountered in this course. Screenwriters will be expected to adhere to conventional screenplay format using screenwriting software such as celtx or Final Draft. As this is not a screenwriting course specifically, students unfamiliar with screenwriting may need to seek out additional time with instructor, or research methodology independently. Screenwriters are encouraged to also stage a reading of the screenplay with members of the class for feedback and reflection. Screenwriters will be required to:

- a. **Submit three story pitches with a short plot summary of each by 2/8.**
- b. **Submit an annotated bibliography** with research sources/influences and summaries of each resource by 2/22.
- c. **AND submit a treatment of screenplay** by 2/22
- d. **Submit a Draft of at least 15 pages of screenplay** for feedback and review by 3/28.
- e. **Discuss screenplay revisions with instructor by 4/15**
- f. **Submit final screenplay by 5/5.**

L. Grading:

1. All work will be evaluated using a +/- grading system as follows:

A+ = 4.0	100-97%
A = 4.0	96-93%
A- = 3.7	92-90%
B+ = 3.3	89-87%
B = 3.0	86-83%
B- = 2.7	82-80%
C+ = 2.3	79-77%
C = 2.0	76-73%
C- = 1.7	72-70%

NOT SUFFICIENT FOR UAF CREDIT

D+ = 1.3	69-67%
D = 1.0	66-63%
D- = 0.7	62-60%
F = 0.0	59-0%

C+ (2.3)	"C" (including C+ and C-) indicates a satisfactory level of acquired knowledge and performance in completion of course requirements.
C (2.0)	

C- (1.7)	<p>C- (1.7) is the <u>minimum acceptable grade</u> that undergraduate students may receive for courses to count toward the major or minor degree requirements, or as a prerequisite for another course. A minimum grade of C (2.0), however, MAY be required by specific programs for prerequisite and / or major / minor courses. Please consult specific program listings in the UAF Catalog.</p> <p>C- (1.7) is the <u>minimum acceptable grade</u> required for all Core (X) Courses.</p>
D+ (1.3) D (1.0) D- (.7)	<p>“D” (including D+ and D-) indicates a minimal level of acquired knowledge and minimal performance in completion of course requirements. <u>This grade does not satisfy requirements for courses in the major, minor, Core, or graduate programs.</u></p>

2. Calculating the Final Grade:

Class participation & online discussion	5%	50 pts.
Film Essays – 40 points each	40%	400 pts
Annotated Bibliography and/or Treatment ...	10%	100 pts
Draft of Final paper or Screenplay	20%	200 pts
Final Paper or Screenplay	25%	250 pts
Total		100% 1000 pts

3. Explanation of NB/I /W grades

This course adheres to the UAF regarding the granting of NB Grades *The NB grade is for use only in situations in which the instructor has No Basis upon which to assign a grade. In general, the NB grade will not be granted.*

University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy:

“The letter “I” (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student’s control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an “I” grade.”

4. UAF eLearning Procedures:

The first contact assignment (Introduction and Survey) is due five days after the first day of instruction. *Failure to submit this assignment within the first two weeks of the course could result in withdrawal from the course.*

The first content assignment (Assignment Week 1) is due one week after the first day of instruction. *Failure to submit this assignment within the first two weeks of the course could result in withdrawal from the course.*

Failure to submit the first three content assignments (Assignments 1, 2 and 3) by the deadline for faculty-initiated withdrawals (the ninth Friday after the first day of classes) could result in instructor initiated withdrawal from the course (W).

5. Instructor Communication and Response Time

As this course is non-synchronous, students and the instructor may be in different time zones, I aim to respond to emails from my students within 24 hours (M-F). For more immediate needs, please contact me via Google Hangouts. You are also welcome to call on the phone should you want to speak during working hours/days. Grades for assignments will be posted within 1 week from submission.

6. How to Check your Grade

To check your grades for assignments and find comments from your instructor, click on the My Grades link in the sidebar menu. All the assignments and their due dates are listed. If your instructor has left comments, there will be a Comments link. Click on this link to view comments.

If the score is for a test or quiz, click on the check mark or your score to see results and feedback. If the score is for an assignment, the title of the assignment is a link and by clicking this link you'll be taken to your submission, grade and comments. If you see a green exclamation point, your assignment has not been graded yet.

M. Student Support Services

1. Writing Center

It's not "cheating" to ask for opinions and editing skills of others. Instead, the discussion is positive and can bring new insights to your work. The **Writing Center** (<http://www.alaska.edu/english/studentresources/writing/>) is available for students to develop their writing skills. Please visit or contact them for assistance, Gruening 801 or 474-5314.

2. Title IV Protection

University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you report to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident.

Your choices for reporting include:

- 1) You may access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043;
- 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-6600;
- 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721.

3. Disability Services

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (203 WHIT, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities. Should you need special accommodations or provisions, please contact me to discuss your needs.

4. UAF eLearning Student Services

The UAF eLearning Student Services office helps students with registration and course schedules, provides information about lessons and student records, assists with the examination process, and answers general questions. Our Academic Advisor can help students communicate with instructors, locate helpful resources, and maximize their distance learning experience. Contact the UAF eLearning Student Services staff at 907. 455.2060 or toll free 1.800.277.8060 or contact staff directly - for directory listing see: <http://elearning.uaf.edu/contact>

5. UAF Help Desk

Go to <http://www.alaska.edu/oit/> to see about current network outages and news.

Reach the Help Desk at:

- e-mail at helpdesk@alaska.edu
- fax: 907.450.8312
- phone: 450.8300 (in the Fairbanks area) or 1.800.478.8226 (outside of Fairbanks)

N. Course calendar – Film 334W- Movies and Films University of Alaska Fairbanks

Tentative schedule! Changes will be made as needed and students should check BLACKBOARD for all current assignments.

All films are available on Reserve at UAF Rasmuson Library in Fairbanks. Links to films are provided on Blackboard and as hyperlinks below.

INTRODUCTION	Log-in to Blackboard and upload intro video for class Read “Getting Started” materials in Blackboard
Week 1 – Begins 1/18/16	** Intro Video Due 1/19 Screening: All Quiet on the Western Front* Discussion contribution online
Week 2 – 1/25/16	Timed writing – 45 min. Due 1/26 – Reaction to All Quiet... Screening: Battle of Algiers* -French and Tunisian w/ English Subtitles (Screenplay available)
1/29/16	Last day to drop class with 100% Refund
Week 3 – 2/1	#1-Essay Due: Battle for Algiers Screening: Apocalypse Now Redux* - English and French w/ English Subtitles Screenplay available. Contribute to the Discussion
Week 4 – 2/8	Research Topic/Screenplay pitch Due Screening: , Atanajarut* Inuktitut with English Subtitles
Week 5- 2/15	#2 Essay - Atanajarut - Due Screening: Raise the Red Lantern* Mandarin with English Subtitles
Week 6- 2/22	Annotated Bibliography/Treatment Due Screening: Akira Kurosawa's Dreams -Japanese with English Subtitles Contribute to the Discussion
Week 7- 2/29	#3 Essay Due: Akira Kurosawa's Dream or Raise the Red Lantern Screening: Hotel Rwanda - English
3/5 – UAF Salisbury Theatre	UAF Denaa Film Celebration in conjunction with Festival of Native Arts
Week 8- 3/7	#4 Essay Due: Hotel Rwanda Screening: September 11: 11"9'01*
Week 9- 3/14	NO CLASSES – Spring Break – UAF Arctic Film Festival 3/12
Week 10 – 3/21	#5 Essay Due: September 11: 11"9'01 *Screening: No Man's Land* Serbian/Bosnian/English/French with English subtitles
3/25/16	Last Day to Withdraw from classes
Week 11 – 3/28	DRAFT of FINAL PAPERS deadline Screening: Persepolis* English Dub or Farsi
Week 12 – 4/4	Extra-Credit Essay Due: Persepolis* Screening: Turtles Can Fly* Kurdish w/ English Subtitles - Scheduled Review meetings for Final Papers with Instructor
Week 13 – 4/11	#8 Essay Due: Turtles can Fly Screening: Tosti* -Afrikans w/English Subtitles Contribute to Discussion - Scheduled Review meetings for Final Papers with Instructor
Week 14 – 4/18	Screening: Paradise Now* - Arabic w/ English Subtitles – Contribute to Discussion
Week 15 – 4/25	Screening: The Hurt Locker* - English Contribute to Discussion
Week 16 – 5/5	Final Research Paper/Screenplay DUE - Screenplay Readings