

Missouri Western State College

Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences

ENG 210-02 Approaches to Literature: Classic Film (CRN 20210)

Meets Tuesday 2:00-4:50 Hearnes Center 102

ENG 210-03 Approaches to Literature: Classic Film (CRN 20211)

Meets Wednesday 2:00-4:50 Hearnes Center 102

Spring 2010

Basic Information

Instructor Information

Dr. [Karen U. Fulton](#), Professor

Communication

Tel: 271-4317 (English Department)

email: fulton@missouriwestern.edu

Office Hours

Office: 222H Eder Hall

Office Hours 10-12 MWF, and by appointment

Final Examinations

ENG 210-02 (Tuesday) Tuesday, May 11, 2 pm

ENG 210-03 (Wednesday) Wednesday, May 5, 2 pm

Required Texts

Hornby, Nick. *High Fidelity*. New York: Riverside.

Millhauser, Steven. *The Barnum Museum*. Champaign, IL: The Dalkey Archive Press, 2007.

Shakespeare, William. *Rome and Juliet*. New York: Dover, 1994.

Other Required Supplies

Three-ring binder and supply of notebook paper.

Access to computer and MWSU O-drive (you will need your Missouri Western password to access this drive).

Access to email; it is much easier to communicate with me via email.

Access to word processor with spell-checker.

Course Objectives and Means

English 210 fulfills Category IV General Studies requirements. These goals can be found on <http://www.mwsc.edu/~engdept/genstud.html>. All English 210 sections provide practice in reading poetry, prose fiction, and drama.

General 210 Objectives:

1. Recognize the major characteristics of literary genres.
2. Discuss literature, orally and in writing, with assurance.
3. Appreciate literary works which are encountered.
4. Understand the different ways in which literary themes may be treated in literature.

Objectives for Classic Film:

1. Recognize major characteristics of the various film genres and the literature on which the films are based as well as the literature the films generate.
2. Discuss films and film literature orally and in writing with assurance.
3. Appreciate filmed literary works which you encounter.
4. Understand the different ways in which a literary theme may be treated in film.

General 210 Means:

1. Read poetry, fiction, and drama.
2. Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding literature.
3. Written essays and essay examinations.
4. Read a variety of works of literature.

Film 210 means

1. View various film productions, read works on which films have been based, read a variety of criticism generated by film.
2. Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding films and their literature.
3. Complete written assignments which deal with the films viewed as well as a long paper and partial essay examinations.
4. Read at least one work on which a film has been based; read and understand material on how film is shaped as well as its terminology.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

In order to improve student learning as well as to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100-level courses and 200-level course beginning in Fall 2007.

You will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided you give prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. All other absences will be deemed unexcused. The maximum number of unexcused absences allowed for this class before the midterm report is 1. Thus, when you have 2 unexcused absences you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class with the grade of FA. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate.

The same policy applies post mid-term. Two absences mean that you have missed two full weeks of work. Missing two full weeks of work will place you in danger of failing the course; the minimum penalty for two unexcused absences will be the lowering of your grade one full level. Accumulating three unsanctioned absences assures that you will fail the class (grade of FA).

Academic Honesty Policy and Due Process

It is required that students submit their own work. Students who are guilty of plagiarism or cheating in any form will automatically receive a zero for the assignment involved and will place themselves in jeopardy of failing the course.

Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report Form.

Please see the 2009-2010 Student Handbook and Calendar for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

Student Disability Policy

Students who have a disability which might prevent their maximum performance in the class should make this known to the instructor immediately so that provisions may be made for any assistance needed.

Important Stuff

This is a **college** class and you are expected to behave as a mature college student.

By choosing to take this section of ENG 210: Approaches to Literature, you are committing to being a fully participating audience member. In spite of the wizardry of modern technology, films are meant to be viewed collectively, so that your response may join with others and so that you become aware of the fact that a given film may affect you in a far different manner than someone else in the class.

When we are viewing films, the “writing lights” will frequently be left on, so that you can take notes or make responses as you are watching the film.

Distractions must be kept to a minimum so that you can watch the film with your full attention and also be aware of others’ responses. Therefore no cell phones, pagers, instant messaging devices or other electronic equipment are allowed to operate in this classroom. Cell phones must be turned off when you enter the classroom and may not be turned on until the plane has reached the gate (oops, wrong announcement—same idea). Electronic equipment may not be used for game-playing or instant messaging. It can distract others; it will certainly distract you. If you have a situation that requires that you can be reached, talk with the instructor prior to class about putting your cell phone on vibrate and taking the call outside the classroom. If I see an electronic offense, you will take an absence for the day.

I begin class when the computer shows 2:00. If you are not in your designated seat by that time, you will not be allowed to take any quiz or complete any work from that class session. The class is scheduled to run until 4:50. Occasionally, the films we watch make it possible to be out earlier than that, but the class is not over *until I dismiss it*. Do not plan on meeting someone at 4:30. If you leave before class is dismissed, you will take an unexcused absence for the day. To facilitate our limited time together, there will always be an Agenda printed on the screen as soon as I arrive.

As an audience participant, you should be courteous to others. Conversation and whispering during the film is distracting to other students. During the instructor’s presentation of material, students should be listening and taking notes. If questions are asked by others, listen carefully to the question and the answer, so that the material does not have to be repeated. It is rude (as well as distracting) to talk or whisper during this class. I require that all members of the

class sit in the rows two through seven and be seated one full seat away from your neighbor. You are expected to be an active participant in this class. Therefore a sleeping student will receive an absence for the day.

As a responsible member of the audience, you will turn in all work on time and in the format specified. If the work does not conform to specifications or is late, it will be penalized by a loss of points.

Chapters of the *Film 2010 Book* are placed on the O-drive, as are cast lists, paragraph assignments, and other material to enrich your viewing. The material on the O-drive will always be placed there one week ahead of the time you will be responsible for it.

I post grades on the O-drive five times during the course of the semester. You will be given a *nom de film* under which your points will be posted. No one should know your *nom de film* except you and your instructor.

Four False Assumptions about this Class

Assumption 1: There is no reading in the class; we only watch films.

Assumption 2: All work is done in class; there is no homework.

Assumption 3: The films have been chosen entirely based upon student enjoyment; therefore I will like every film in this class.

Assumption 4: Every film we see will be a comfortable experience for me; all films will reinforce my moral belief system.

Grading Policies

The class grade is computed on the basis of 200 points divided into halves.

1. Class work (100 pts. Total) Eleven of these exercises will be given; the lowest score will be dropped.

- Multiple choice quizzes over reading and films
- Short answer applications of written material to films

2. Tests (100 points total)

Test 1 – 20 points

Test 2 – 30 points

Test 3 – 50 points (including a 10-point all or nothing survey)

3. Total points possible 200 pts.

- Final grades are determined on a 10% scale; above 180 total points is an "A" (200 minus 20 = 180). The final score will be lowered because of late work.
- Opportunities to earn a maximum of 15 points extra credit are given during the second half of the semester. These extra credit assignments are all or nothing.

Some Important Formatting Issues

- ✓ Characters' names, actors' names, directors' names, etc. must be spelled correctly. Proofread your work prior to turning it in.
- ✓ Make sure you save your work to a floppy disk or flash drive in case the hard copy is lost or misplaced.
- ✓ Short answer writing is expected to be in complete sentences, with correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- ✓ No outside sources should be used unless directed by the instructor.

Ratings Journal

- ✓ All classes will end with you handing in your "rating" slip for the film; there is space on the quiz sheets I hand out for this. Otherwise you will turn in a rating with your name and the film's name on notebook paper. The notebook paper is required to be a complete sheet and not have squiggles hanging from it. If the sheet is torn or "squiggly," 2 points will be deducted from your next 10-point assignment.
- ✓ You are expected to keep a rating journal over the course of the semester, listing your own rating as well as the class rating of the film and the Internet Movie Data Base (IMDb) rating (which will be found on the O-drive under Tally). The journal will be reproduced as part of the Final examination survey.

Calendar

Class 1: Fill out information sheets. Syllabus coverage, introduction to O-drive, methods of working this semester. View "Sherlock Jr." Preview "Citizen Kane."

Agenda

Since we meet only once a week, our time together is likely to be very full. Therefore class will start on time. When you come into the room, check the screen for the day's agenda. Every class will begin with an agenda posted on the screen.

There is usually a short lecture by the instructor on the reading and how it applies to the film and the film itself. Sometimes in place of the lecture, we will view a short "making of" featurette so that you can hear and see the people directly involved in the film.

Depending upon the length of the film (and films are getting longer), question time will follow.

If a film's length is under 2 hours, we will view it with no break; instead our break will come before viewing the film.

If a film's length is over 2 hours, we will take a short (no more than 5 minutes) break around the middle of the film.