

**Missouri Western State College**  
**Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences**  
**ENG 210-04 Approaches to**  
**Literature: Film Literature**  
**Meets Tuesday, 2-4:50pm Ad 205**  
**Spring 2003**  
**Basic Information**

**Instructor Information**

Dr. Karen U. Fulton, Professor

**Communication**

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**Office Hours**

Office: Eder 222-H; 10-11 MWF; 10-12 T and other hours by appointment.

**Required Texts**

Dick, Bernard. *Anatomy of Film*, 4th edition. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002.

Hornby, Nick. *High Fidelity*. New York: Riverside, 1998.

**Other Required Supplies**

Access to word processor with spell-checker. All papers must be word processed.

**Course Objectives and Means**

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

**General 210 Objectives:**

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

**Objectives for Film Literature:**

- 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.
- Discuss films and film literature orally and in writing with assurance.
- Appreciate filmed literary works that you encounter.
- Understand the different ways in which a literary theme may be treated in film.

**General 210 Means:**

- Read poetry, fiction, and drama.
- Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding literature.
- Write papers, including themes and essay examinations.

- Read a variety of literary works in which a chosen theme is dominant.

### **Film Literature Means:**

- View various film productions, read works on which films have been based, read a variety of criticism generated by film.
- Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding films and their literature.
- Complete written responses and quizzes on films viewed, as well as papers and essay examinations.
- Read a variety of critical and creative works on film or from which films have been made.

## **Course Policies**

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance will be recorded at each session. Class work is distributed and usually completed during the same class session. This work is graded (see grading policies); the resulting points comprise one third of the final total. When assignments are turned in after class, students will complete and sign a rating sheet at the end of the hour. There is no \*good\* way to make up a missed session.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

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.

### **Student Disability Policy**

Students having a disability that 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.

### **Class Behavior Policies**

- No cell phones, pagers, beepers or other electronic equipment are allowed in this classroom.
- Class begins at 2:00. Students who are not here when work is distributed will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.
- A sleeping student will be noted and will receive an absence for the day and/or a deduction from the writing of that day.
- Conversation and whispering during the film is distracting to other students; a student engaging in either behavior will be noted and will take an absence for the day and or a deduction from the writing of that day. During the instructor's presentation of material, students should be listening and taking notes; it is rude (as well as distracting) to talk, whisper, etc. during this part of the class.
- When questions are asked, all students should listen carefully so that material does not need to be repeated.
- All work is due on time and in the format specified. If it does not conform to specifications or is late, it will be penalized.
- Class is not over until it is dismissed. It is your responsibility to pick up the material for the next class.
- You are responsible for any material handed out in class by the next class- you must be able to recall it and apply it.

- You are expected to take notes during the film to aid your ability to recall significant points. Lights are kept on at low level.

## False Assumptions about this Class

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

**False.** There is actually quite a bit of reading in this class. *Anatomy of Film*, a film text, provides terminology and film background. You are responsible for the reading assigned and will be quizzed over it.

The class will read a novel in addition to seeing the film and writing will be completed that required you to have a sound knowledge of both.

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

**False.** You will be doing outside writing in two assigned papers, in the take-home portions of the final, in the take-home mid-term, in web/library researches, and in the extra credit assignments if you choose to do them.

Based upon previous student reaction, this semester there will be many more quizzes given out in class but due in to me (either by email or in my mailbox) by Friday.

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

**False.** While I hope you enjoy the majority of these films, I primarily choose films based on their learning value and for the range of the film experience they represent. Therefore, we will see silent films and several films in black/white. If you are taking this class because you are a big fan of "The Fast and the Furious" or "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and expect class films to be similar, you may want to rethink your decision to take this section of ENG 210. Because this class is offered as an English offering (as opposed to a mass media one), the emphasis of this class falls on such things as narrative plot, dialogue (as opposed to special effects), and genre.

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

**False.** One of the goals of this class is to expose its members to films that may challenge your preconceptions. While I don't try to be "avant garde" or "cutting edge" in this class, I do select some films that expose you to cultural, religious, and sexual points of view that you may not have considered before or be comfortable with. If you feel that you will have trouble being open to this kind of experience and reflecting that openness in your written responses, you may want to rethink your decision to take this section.

### Grading Policies

The class grade is computed on the basis of 300 divided as follows:

- Class work (Responses, quizzes, information sheets) 100 pts total
- One short paper 75 pts total
- Tests 125 pts total
  - A take-home mid-term @40 pts
  - A final examination @85 pts
    - 10 points survey (all or nothing)
    - 50 point take-home portion
    - 25 point day of final written responses to clips
- Total points possible 300 pts

Final grades are determined on a 10% scale; above 270 total points constitutes an "A" (300

minus 30 = 270 etc.) This final score will be lowered because of absences or late work.

Opportunities to earn a maximum of 20 points extra credit are given during the second half of the semester.

## Course components

### Class written work

- Written work must be mechanically clean and formatted in structured paragraphs to receive full credit. Lack of paragraph form or errors in grammar and mechanics will result in deductions from the score.
- Individual written work can earn 5 to 10 points each; the possible points will be given on the assignment. At the end of the semester, each student will have had the opportunity to amass a total of 110 points. The lowest 10 point score will be dropped for each student at the end of the semester, resulting in a total of 100.
- Written work completed on torn, spiral bound, or ripped paper will be penalized by a 2- point deduction from the grade.
- Some written work will be due after we view the film. Sometimes a short scene or shot is replayed followed by you interpreting and analyzing specific components of the scene (usually covered in *Anatomy of Film*). Sometimes the prompts are distributed before viewing the movie so you can look for materials as you view the film. In either case, names of movies, actors, directors, characters, etc. must be spelled correctly to receive full credit. These cannot be made up.
- Some written work will take place at the beginning of the hour; these work sheets will ask you to recall material (terminology, etc.) from the *Anatomy of Film*. These quizzes will be short-answer or multiple choice. These cannot be made up.
- Some written work will be take-home in nature. At the film's conclusion, a response assignment will be given. These are usually due at the beginning of the next class period, but you may be assigned to place them in my mailbox by the Friday of the week we have seen the film.
- When a specific kind of response (a paragraph) is indicated by the prompt, penalties will be taken for not following instructions. For example, if the response is three paragraphs rather than one, it will be penalized. Likewise a paragraph of two or three sentences with no supporting evidence can expect to get a low grade.

### Written work

- You will write one short paper (maximum 1000 words). This writing will give you a chance to reflect upon what you have viewed and to compose a full-length statement of your ideas.
- Topics for this paper will be assigned, but there will be at least two options to choose from (also true for the mid-term and final).
- Written work must be word-processed and spell checked. These writings are expected to be in essay format with complete sentences, correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. When you are quoting, summarizing or paraphrasing reviews or other material, you must properly source such material within the paper and document such material in MLA style at the end.

## Examinations

- The mid-term exam will be a take-home examination due at the beginning of the hour on. The midterm will be worth 40 points.
- The final exam will consist of three parts:
  - A take-home component based on reading and viewing *High Fidelity*.
  - The question will be distributed prior to our final session and the essay will be due at the scheduled final time.
  - A short answer or multiple choice examination at the regularly scheduled final time in response to clips of various films and requiring you to apply information and terms from *Anatomy of Film*, and
  - An all-or-nothing survey of the class (worth 10 points) distributed at the last class, due at the final.

## Course Procedures

### Materials

Film-based materials are made available one session ahead on the P-drive. At the end of our first class, material for next session's film will be made available. You are responsible for mastering the background material. It may be the basis for quizzes.

Your reading of the assignment in *Anatomy of Film* must be completed prior to class. Quizzes will be given to insure that you are keeping up with reading.

### Agenda

Class will start on time; a day's agenda will be given on the overhead. At the beginning of the semester, we are likely to start with a short (5 pt) quiz over the material in *Anatomy of Film*.

The class will move to a lecture by the instructor on the reading and how it applies to the film as well as on the film itself. 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.

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.

All classes will end with you handing in your "rating" slip for the film. If I do not receive one of these, you will be counted absent for the day.

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 IMDB rating (which will be posted on the overhead from week to week). This will enable you to compare your valuing of the film with others in the class and within a worldwide context.

### Important Dates

Paper: November 4 (specifications distributed 2 weeks prior)

Take home mid-term: October 14 (specifications distributed 2 weeks prior)

Take home final question and all-or-nothing survey distributed: December 2

Clip portion of final, take-home final and survey due: December 9

### Calendar

1. (August 26) Syllabus, introduction to class, procedures, view and rank "Sherlock Jr."
2. (September 2) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 1, view "Casablanca."

3. (September 9) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 2, view “Memento.”
4. (September 16) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 3 pages 54-98, view “Run, Lola, Run”
5. (September 23) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 3, pages 98-115, view “Monsoon Wedding.”
6. (September 30) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 4, pages 117-136, view “Chicago”
7. (October 7) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 4, pages, 136-147 and 168-178, view “The Usual Suspects”
8. (October 14) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 4, pages 147-168, view “The Awful Truth”
9. (October 21) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 5, view “Gods and Monsters”
10. (October 28) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 6, pages 216-239, view “Sunset Blvd.”
11. (November 4) Paper due. View “Barbershop.”
12. (November 11) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 7 view “Much Ado About Nothing”
13. (November 18) Read *Anatomy of Film*, Chapter 8.
14. (November 25) View film selected by class.
15. (December 2) View “High Fidelity”
16. FINAL December 9 2 pm.