

Missouri Western State College
Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences
ENG 210-05 Approaches to Literature: Film Literature
Meets Tuesday 3:30-6:20pm, Hearn Center 102
Spring 2009

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 10-11 MWF, 2:00-3:30 T, 2:30 M and by appointment

Final Examination

Thursday, April 30, 2009 at 2 pm

Required Texts

Gilroy, Tony. *Michael Clayton: The Shooting Script*. New York: Newmarket Press, 2007.

Grisham, John. *The Rainmaker*. New York: Island Books, 1995.

Millhauser, Thomas. *The Barnum Museum*. Normal, IL: Dalkey Archive Press, 1997.

Other Required Supplies

Access to computer and MWSC O/P-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 (for out of class assignments).

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 Film Literature:

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.

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 2007-2008 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.

College Behavior Policies

1. No cell phones, pagers, beepers or other electronic equipment are allowed to operate in this classroom. Cell phones must be turned off during class. **They are not to be used for instant messaging or game playing during class.** If the instructor detects the use of electronic equipment in class, she will take the device from you and you may reclaim it at the end of the hours. The instructor will also record an

absence for the day. At the beginning of any subsequent classes, you will have to turn your electronic equipment in to the instructor prior to class and reclaim it after the class is over.

2. Class begins at 3:30pm. Students who are not here when work is distributed or a quiz is given will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.
3. A sleeping student will be awakened **and** will receive an absence for the day.
4. Conversation and whispering during the film is distracting to other students; a student engaging in either will be noted by the instructor and receive an absence for the 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.
5. If questions are asked by others, listen carefully so that material does not need to be repeated.
6. 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 by a loss of points.
7. Class is not over until it is dismissed.
8. You are responsible for material placed on the O/P-drive by the next class--you must be able to recall it and apply it. In general, O/P-drive material will be posted on Wednesday morning for the Tuesday ahead.
9. You will be given a *nom de film* under which your points will be posted.
10. At the end of the first class, the instructor needs to be made aware of any impediments (physical or psychological) which might interfere with your maximum performance in the course so that arrangements can be made so you can do your best.

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.

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

False. You will be doing outside writing

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 a silent film today and several films in black and white. If you are taking this class because you are a big fan of "Dumb and Dumber" or "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and expect class films to be similar, you may want to rethink your decision to take this section. Because this class is offered as an English offering, ENG 210, (as opposed to a mass media one), the emphasis of this class falls on such things as narrative, character, and dialogue (as opposed to special effects.)

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 which may challenge preconceptions of film and its subject matter. While my choice of films is not terribly "avant-garde" or "cutting edge," I do try to 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 200 points divided into halves.

1. Class work (100 pts. Total)
 - Quizzes over reading and films
 - The class will take 11 quizzes; the highest 10 quizzes will count
 - Take home written responses
2. Tests (100 points total)
 - A mid-term worth 40 points
 - A final examination worth 60 points; 10 of those points will come from a survey which you will fill out at the end of the course.
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 absences or 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.

Materials

Film-based materials are posted on the O/P-drive one week ahead. At the end of today's first class, material for next week's film will already be up on the O/P-drive and I will go through the steps to access the O/P-drive. You are responsible for mastering the background material. It may be the basis for quizzes, which are given to insure that you are keeping up with reading.

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.

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 P-drive under Tally. The journal will be reproduced as part of the Final examination survey.