



**East China Normal University
GEC International Summer School**

FMS101/FILM11: Introductory Film Studies

Term: June 16th to July 18th, 2025

Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 110 minutes each day (2,750 minutes in total)

Instructor: Nick J. Sciullo

Home Institution: Texas AM University, Kingsville

Office hours: TBD

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the basics of film analysis, cinematic formal elements, genre, and narrative structure and helps students develop the skills to recognize, analyze, describe and enjoy film as an art and entertainment form. To understand how films are constructed to make meaning and engage audiences, students will be introduced to the basic “building blocks” and formal elements (narrative, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound and editing) that make up the film as well as some fundamental principles of analysis, genre, style, performance and storytelling.

Prerequisite: None

Required Text

The Film Experience: An Introduction, by Timothy Corrigan, Patricia White

ISBN: 9781319059514

Course Hours

The course has 25 class sessions in total. Each class session is 110 minutes in length, for a total of 2750 minutes of in-class time. The course meets from Monday to Friday. ECNU awards 3 credits for this course. Different universities



may count course credits differently. Consult officials at your own home institution.

Attendance

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. ECNU policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any absence may impact on the student's grade. Moreover, ECNU policy is that a student who has more than 3 absences will fail the course. Arriving late or leaving early will count as a partial absence.

Grading Policy

ECNU awards grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, and F. Most colleges and universities do not award transfer credit for grades of D or F.

In this course, grading will be based on the following:

Attendance	10%
In-Class Exercise *2	15%*2=30%
Midterm	30%
Final	30%

General Expectations

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all material covered in class and otherwise assigned. Any unexcused absence may impact a student's grade.
- Arrive to class on-time: Late arrivals are disruptive to your fellow students and to the conduct of the class.
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class
- Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during class (不要用手机) It is highly disrespectful to the professor and to the class.



- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.

Course Schedule

The planned schedule sketched out below may be modified to suit the interests or abilities of the enrolled students or to take advantage of special opportunities or events that may arise during the term.

Week 1

- *Day 1*
 - *Course outline*
 - *Introduction to film studies*
 - *Read: Chapter 1*
- *Day 2*
 - *Chapter 1: Encountering film*
 - *Film: Killer of Sheep (1977)*
- *Day 3*
 - *Chapter 1: Encountering film - continued*
 - *Film: Citizen Kane (1941)*
- *Day 4*
 - *Chapter 2: History and Historiography*
 - *Film: Taxi Driver and New Hollywood (1976)*
- *Day 5*
 - *Chapter 2: History and Historiography - continued*
 - *Film: Within Our Gates (1920)*

Week 2

- *Day 1*
 - *Chapter 3: Mise-en-Scene*
 - *Film: Life of Pi (2012), Do the Right Thing (1989)*
- *Day 2*
 - *Film discussion 1*
- *Day 3*
 - *Film response essay 1 due*
 - *Chapter 3: Mise-en-Scene – continued*
 - *Film: Hugo (2011)*
- *Day 4*



- *Chapter 3: Mise-en-Scene – continued*
- *Film: Bicycle Thieves (1948)*
- *Day 5*
 - *Midterm exam 1*

Week 3

- *Day 1*
 - *Chapter 4: Cinematography*
 - *Film: Touch of Evil (1958)*
- *Day 2*
 - *Chapter 4: Cinematography – continued*
 - *Film: Vertigo (1958)*
- *Day 3*
 - *Chapter 5: Editing: Relating Images*
 - *Film: Tangerine (2015)*
- *Day 4*
 - *Chapter 5: Editing: Relating Images - continued*
 - *Film: Bonnie and Clyde (1967)*
 - *Film discussion 2*
- *Day 5*
 - *Film response essay 2 due*
 - *Chapter 6: Film Sound*
 - *Film: Singin' in the Rain (1952)*

Week 4

- *Day 1*
 - *Chapter 7: Narrative Films*
 - *Film: Mildred Pierce (1945), Daughters of the Dust (1991)*
- *Day 2*
 - *Chapter 8: Documentary Films*
 - *Film: Man of Aran (1934), What Happened, Miss Simone? (2015)*
- *Day 3*
 - *Midterm exam 2*
- *Day 4*
 - *Film discussion 3*
- *Day 5*
 - *Film response 3 due*
 - *Chapter 9: Experimental Film and New Media*



- *Film: Meshes of the Afternoon (1943)*

Week 5

- *Day 1*
 - *Chapter 9: Experimental Film and New Media - continued*
 - *Film: Bridges-Go-Round (1958)*
- *Day 2*
 - *Chapter 10: Movie Genres*
 - *Film: La La Land (2016)*
- *Day 3*
 - *Chapter 10: Movie Genres – continued*
 - *Film: In the Mood for Love (2000)*
- *Day 4*
 - *Final Paper Workday*
- *Day 5*
 - *Final Paper due*
 - *Final discussion*

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Specifically, unless otherwise directed by the professor, students may not consult other students, books, notes, electronic devices or any other source, on examinations. Failure to abide by this may result in a zero on the examination, or even failure in the course.