Moberly Area Community College  
Common Syllabus  

LAL160 Introduction to Film Studies  

Current Term  

Instructor:  
Office number:  
Office hours:  
Contact information:  
Classroom Number:  
Class days and time:  

Catalog Description: *LAL160 Introduction to Film Studies (3-0-3)  
This course is a study of visual arts that focuses on the study of the history, development, theory, and criticism of the film/video arts, as well as the basic principles of film making and film production. (FA, SP, SU)  

Prerequisite/Co-requisite: None  

Text(s):  
Title: Looking at Movies  
Author: Barsam and Monahan  
Publisher: W. W. Norton  
ISBN: 978-0-393-67469-9  

Other Required Materials: Reliable Internet access for our Canvas course and to view films, clips, etc.  

Purpose of Course: The course will provide an overview of film studies—the history of film and the emergence of key national cinemas, the development of film techniques and principle of filmmaking, as well as key developments in film theory and criticism. It is designed to give students an understanding of and appreciation for the medium. It prepares students for further study of film, enhances reading comprehension and writing skills, encourages interpretative dialogue and debate and helps students to appreciate film as an art form.  

Course Objectives:  
• Experience various interpretations of film  
• Develop an understanding and appreciation of the basics of film design, genre conventions, and film history.  
• Substantiate their own analysis/interpretation of various films through written assignments, class discussions, quizzes, and exams.  
• Understand filmmakers’ intent in conjunction with various other interpretations and critical (once the student has formed and expressed personal analysis).
Course Content:
1. Interpreting and evaluating film meaning
2. History of film from beginnings to digital era
3. Key national cinemas
4. Key approaches to film criticism
5. Principles of film form
6. Film genres and genre conventions
7. Elements of narrative film, documentary film, and experimental film

Students are expected to remain current with the readings and screenings. Each student should respond to the selections being discussed. Class discussion promotes debate, substantiation of ideas, self-esteem and critical thinking. When students have formulated personal interpretation and analysis, the instructor should attempt to point the filmmakers’ intent and also bring forward various other critical analysis of the work. The course will cover a variety of films, genres, etc.

Assessment of Student Learning: The grading scale will follow a standard of 100-90% A, 89-80% B, 79-70% C, 69-60% D. Grading will be based on tests and quizzes over the lectures and literature, in-class activities, writing assignments, oral reports, library assignments, or other projects.

Grading Scale:
A – 90-100%
B – 80-89%
C – 70-79%
D – 60-69%
F – 0-59%

Expected Study Time Commitments: Students should expect to spend approximately 2 to 4 hours per week studying, reading, and working on assignments for each registered credit hour. For example, 6 to 12 study hours per week may be expected for a 3 credit hour class.

Description of Major Assignment(s)/Project(s): Lectures will be presented on the history of film and different genres of film, along with the basics of film design (e.g. narrative, lighting, space, mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound, acting) and film criticism and interpretation of film. Films and clips will be viewed weekly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major assignments</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly screening journal entries</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Schedule of Student Assignment/Activities: Per instructor
Statement to Connect Course with General Education Outcomes: In compliance with MACC's General Education outcomes, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- **Managing Information**: Students will demonstrate the ability to discern when there is a need for information; and to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively and responsibly use and share that information for the problem at hand.

- **Valuing**: Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the moral and ethical values of a diverse society; and to appreciate the values of diversity, equity, and sustainability.

**College / Instructor Policies:**

**Academic Dishonesty**: MACC board policy is as follows: “Academic dishonesty by students damages institutional credibility and unfairly jeopardizes honest students; therefore, it will not be tolerated in any form.” Forms of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to the following: violations of copyright law, plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, collusion, and other academic misconduct. Incidents of dishonesty regarding assignments, examinations, classroom/laboratory activities, and/or the submission of misleading or false information to the College will be treated seriously. The procedure for handling academic dishonesty is outlined in the Student Handbook (Policy Handbook, M.010). In cases of alleged academic dishonesty, the burden of proof is on the student, not on the instructor.

**Attendance Policy**: Students are expected to attend all class sessions for which they are enrolled. The College reserves the right to drop or withdraw students from courses due to lack of attendance.

Students need to be aware that dropping/being dropped from a course and their last date of attendance in the course may impact their financial aid.

MACC faculty are required to track attendance and report lack of attendance. An instructor must complete the appropriate steps to drop a student within one week following the student’s violation of the attendance policy. Additionally, a student’s attendance rate will be calculated based upon the first day the academic session begins (not the student’s date of enrollment in the course). If a student does not attend a course as defined below, the student will be dropped as “Never Attended.”

**Term Length Drop Calculations**

- **16-week**: Any student who misses two (2) consecutive weeks of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

- **8-week**: Any student who misses one (1) consecutive week of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.
4-week: Any student who misses two (2) consecutive days of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Intersession: Any student who misses one (1) day of class will be dropped from the course by the instructor unless acceptable justification is provided by the student and the student still has the opportunity to be successful in the course.

Acceptable justification may include, but is not limited to, family emergencies, illness or injury, college-approved co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and religious holidays.

**Definition of Course Attendance**

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<tr>
<th>In Seat Course</th>
<th>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Course</td>
<td>Being present, via appropriate platform, for scheduled class meetings/activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hybrid Course</td>
<td>Physically attending scheduled, face-to-face, class meetings and active participation in the online portion of the course which may include any or all of the following:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Completion of quizzes or exams during class meetings and online</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Submission of assignments during class meetings and online</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in discussions during class meetings and online</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Course</td>
<td>Active participation in an online course includes the following:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Completion of quizzes or exams</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Submission of assignments</td>
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<td>• Participation in threaded discussions</td>
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Simply logging into the Learning Management System (Canvas) and/or accessing the course and course related material does not constitute active participation for the online component of hybrid courses or for online courses. *(Policy Handbook, I.090 & M.095)*

**Tardiness:** Per instructor’s policy

**Make-up and late work:** Per instructor’s policy

**Extra-Credit:** Per instructor’s policy

**Student Email:** MACC Mail is the official student email system at MACC. Official college communication is sent via this email system. Students are responsible for checking their MACC Mail account regularly. Students may also receive notifications and reminders from MACC through the
online learning platform. However, students should remain aware that the online learning platform messaging system and MACC Mail (student email) system are two separate systems.

**ADA Statement:** Students who have disabilities that qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act may register for assistance through the Office of Access and ADA Services. Students are invited to contact the Access Office to confidentially discuss disability information, academic accommodations, appropriate documentation and procedures. For more information, please call either the Moberly office at (660) 263-4100 x 11240 or the Columbia office at (573) 234-1067 x 12120, or visit our web page at [http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office](http://www.macc.edu/index.php/services/access-office).

**Title IX Statement:** MACC maintains a strict policy prohibiting sexual misconduct in any form, including sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and sexual violence. All MACC employees, including faculty members, are considered mandated reporters of sexual misconduct and as such are expected to contact the Title IX Coordinator when they become aware, in conversation or in writing, of an incident of sexual misconduct. For more information on this policy or to learn about support resources, please see [http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy](http://www.macc.edu/sexual-misconduct-policy) (links to an external site) or contact Ms. Cheryl Lybarger, MACC’s Title IX Coordinator, at 660-263-4110, ext. 11369 or CherylLybarger@macc.edu.