

FALL 2019 | CINE 200

INTRO TO CINEMA STUDIES

TUESDAYS 9:30 AM - 12:15 PM
FA 101 [COPPOLA THEATER]

TEACHING TEAM

Katherine (Katie) Morrissey (she/her)

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Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays 1 - 3 PM and by
appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

Margot Bruce (she/her), Jorge Delgadillo (he/him)

01 // COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION //

As described in the SFSU Course Bulletin, this course is designed to introduce you to the “expressive properties and codes of cinema.” Let’s translate that. Essentially, we want you to leave this course with a better understanding of how meaning is encoded into cinema, how to decode it, and for you to begin developing your own critical analysis of cinematic works. Our class does this by focusing on core elements of cinema (cinematography, mise-en-scene, editing, story, sound) and the ways these elements convey meaning to audiences. We will also consider some of the common frameworks for studying cinema-- culture, history, genre, nation, industry, technology, etc.

In the School of Cinema we want our students to develop both their critical and creative voices. This course is designed to get you started with cinema studies and criticism. Cinema 202 is designed to get you started making your own cinematic work. Cinema 200 is a required component of the Cinema BA at SFSU and part of the major’s “core” classes. To be in this class you must be a cinema major and have sophomore standing (or higher). For this course to count towards your Cinema major or minor, you must earn a grade of C or better.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES //

- 01.** Students will recognize and utilize the **formal vocabulary** of Cinema Studies.
- 02.** Students will identify and describe ways cinematic works use **photography, mise-en-scene, editing, sound, and narrative** to make meaning.
- 03.** Students will practice **formal analysis** and use it to develop their own **media criticism**. This entails developing original arguments, identifying evidence, and critiquing cinematic works.

01 // COURSE INFORMATION

TEACHING METHODS //

Our class utilizes the following methods to help you meet these learning objectives:

- Each unit of the course is divided into two components. First, a **lecture** covering important concepts and relevant examples. Lectures are accompanied by **discussion, small group activities,** and **individual in-class assignments** to help you apply and test your knowledge. Second, you will apply what you've learned to a feature-length film and begin developing your own analysis. We will **screen films, take notes, analyze,** and **discuss** these films in detail.
- This class is **discussion and participation heavy.** You learn best by asking questions when you are confused, testing your knowledge, and getting feedback from others.
- Regular **writing assignments** and **in-class quizzes** give you the opportunity to develop your formal analysis skills, test your awareness of common cinema studies terms, and identify areas where additional work and/or support is needed.
- The **midterm and final projects** pull the various pieces of the class together. You can use these projects to evaluate your mastery of class concepts and your comfort using formal analysis to develop and communicate your own media criticism.

TEXTBOOK & READINGS //

The Film Experience: An Introduction (5th Edition, 2018) by Patricia White and Timothy Corrigan. SFSU Bookstore prices: \$130 (new), \$97.50 (used), \$65 (rental).

SFSU prices are very high. You will save by shopping online. A copy of the textbook is on reserve in the SFSU library.

Any additional assigned readings will be available as pdfs on iLearn.

SCREENING MATERIALS //

Full length films will be temporarily available via in-class screenings. A limited amount of media clips will be available on iLearn for class assignments. If you miss a screening, you need to arrange to screen the film on your own.

You will also need access to screening materials for major projects. You are responsible for renting, purchasing, or borrowing any media you missed in class or that you need for major assignments. Costs here typically vary from \$0 - \$20 per film.

02 // GRADING & POLICIES

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

15% //

Discussion and collaboration are central to your development in this class. If you are regularly unprepared for class, do not participate, and/or miss assignments this will seriously impact your understanding of class material and your ability to work with your peers. Using technology in class for non-class related reasons will have similar effects. Strong class participation is recognized and rewarded using class attendance and quizzes, the screening notes, and extra credit opportunities to provide class discussion prompts.

ATTENDANCE (10%)

Weeks 1 & 2: Given the high-demand for CINE 200, attendance is required in weeks one and two of the semester. If you do not attend during week one or two and you do not contact the instructor you will be automatically dropped from the class.

The rest of the semester: Life happens.

Everyone can miss three classes, no questions asked. If you are sleeping in class, arrive more than 10 minutes late, or depart more than 10 minutes early, you will only receive partial attendance credit for the day.

If you have serious and compelling reasons for missing additional classes, it will not affect your attendance grade. However, this needs to be determined on a case-by-case basis. In these circumstances, you should contact me as quickly as possible to discuss the situation and whether it qualifies as serious and compelling. If you miss more than three classes without a serious and compelling reason, you will be able to remain in the class but I will not be able to give you attendance credit (10% of the final grade).

SCREENING NOTES (5%)

Taking notes while screening media is an important habit to develop. It gives you a record of the things you noticed while watching and lets you see patterns. Notes also give you a useful archive to return to when doing class assignments. To help you develop this practice I will provide a few quick items to look for each time we screen something.

Everyone takes notes in their own way and what you notice is up to you. However, I expect all students to make a good faith effort at taking notes each week. Generally, you are expected to have at least one full page of notes per screening. Once you get in the habit, you will find yourself writing down more and more each time. Keep all your notes in one place. They will be collected at different points during the semester and you will receive credit for them.

02 // GRADING & POLICIES

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

30% //

We use **in-class quizzes** to help you check your understanding of key concepts and writing assignments to help you develop your formal analysis skills.

Administered during reading weeks, quizzes are given at the start and end of class. Once at the start, to help you identify gaps in your understanding. Again, at the finish, to help you assess your progress. Only your top 5 scores will count towards the final grade. Quizzes cannot be made up without a serious and compelling reason. You will be asked to provide documentation to verify your absence.

We use **screening analysis assignments** to practice formal analysis and help you develop your own media criticism. Assigned during screening weeks, these are 1 page long and due on Fridays by 12 pm. Only your top 5 grades will count towards the final grade.

You are responsible for ensuring you have access to iLearn and are able to post assignments before each deadline.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

55% //

Our semester has two major projects: **a midterm and a final**. These projects help you assess how well you are able to use the language and methods of cinema studies to develop your own media criticism. Each project is a short 3 page paper.

EXTRA CREDIT

5 POINTS //

Everyone benefits when we work through problems and examples together as a class. Each week you have an opportunity to **share a discussion prompt on iLearn** for the class to work through. Post your question with a screencap, a clip, a quote from the reading, a link to a relevant piece of media... there are a lot of options! We'll try to fit them into the day's discussion and, as needed, continue the discussion on iLearn. These are due Mondays at 12pm. Do it 3 times for full points.

% GRADE BREAK DOWN

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

Attendance	10%
Notes	5%

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Reading Quizzes	10%
Screening Analysis	20%

MAJOR PROJECTS

Midterm Project	25%
Final Project	30%

TOTAL 100%

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EMAIL //

Part of my job is to help students prepare for professional careers. As such, our relationship needs to be a professional one. When you email me, please format your emails accordingly. If you have not written more formal or professional-style emails before, here's a handy guide:

<http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>.

I generally respond to emails during standard working hours (M - F, 9-5). You should receive a response from me in 1-2 working days. If you email outside of standard working hours my reply may take longer. If you do not receive a reply in 1-2 working days, email me again. Occasionally an email gets lost in the shuffle or stuck in a junk mail filter.

Check your SFSU email regularly, even when we do not have class. If you do not like to use SFSU email, remember, you can set it up to forward elsewhere. Whatever method you choose, **keep an eye on your SFSU address** so that you do not miss important email.

LATE WORK //

I assign deadlines to keep everyone on track and to help you succeed. However, life happens. I have programmed in some wiggle room to help:

- The **midterm has a 3-day window** for late submissions. The **final has a 2-day window**. Every 24 hours, the grade drops 10 additional points.
- Given the nature of the screening analysis assignments it is not possible to turn these assignments in late.

ETHICS & CONDUCT //

We need to work together to create a supportive, respectful, and constructive learning environment. If something related to our class is making it challenging for you to learn, feel safe, or feel comfortable participating please let your instructor know as soon as you possibly can.

All students are expected to adhere to the SFSU [Code of Conduct](#). Instances of plagiarism will be reported. For more information about what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, consult the [LCA Plagiarism Resources page](#).

ENSURING ACCESSIBILITY //

If you prefer captioned media, for any reason, contact the instructor. Generally, all course screenings have captions available. Course materials are typically made available on iLearn and in ways that *should* allow students to enlarge their display or view the materials in high-contrast. However, I'm always testing new tools. Please let me know if you're ever having issues utilizing course materials and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email (dprc@sfsu.edu). Their website address is: <http://access.sfsu.edu/>.

03 //

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

IF YOU NEED TO MISS A CLASS //

- Make sure you still turn in all your work. You don't want to lose assignment credit!
- Assignments and lecture notes are posted on iLearn. Look them up and come prepared to the next class.
- Speak with classmates to catch up on class.
- Consider coming to my office hours to review missed material and ask questions.

DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY //

- Test out technology and troubleshoot issues ahead of time. If you have iLearn problems, contact iLearn Support ASAP.
- Leave time to export/upload files. Doing this at the last minute leaves you open to tech problems and missed deadlines.
- If you run into serious tech issues, contact me ASAP. I may be able to work with you on a deadline extension.

IF YOU NEED TO MEET REGARDING GRADES/DRAFTS //

I would love to meet and discuss your work. We both need to be prepared for this meeting to be productive. Before we meet, please do the following:

1. Try to give me a heads up if you want to discuss a lengthy draft. I may be able to review the draft before you arrive.
2. Take time to review the assignment and any work you want to discuss. If it's graded, review the grading rubric and your feedback. Try to get a sense of what you do and don't already know, this will help guide your questions.
3. When possible, bring a copy of your work and your notes on it. Then, when I give you feedback, I'll be building on what you know, instead of repeating things you've already figured out
4. Try to bring a list of specific questions about the work and/or your plans to revise it.

Our meetings won't be productive if you don't prepare. Make sure you take the time to do this. Otherwise we may need to reschedule.

Keep in mind, **grades are not negotiable**. To fair to everyone, grades are determined based on how well work meets or exceeds the assignment requirements. Typically, grades are only adjusted when an error occurs. For more information, see the [Grading and Assessment Handout](#).

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

OUR WEEKLY SCHEDULE //

Use our typical weekly schedule to help you plan out your semester.

My office hours are Mondays and Tuesdays 1-3pm. Use these times to meet with me, check on course materials and/or assignments, bring drafts, and ask for feedback.

	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	
Unit part 1: READING WEEK	Class Meets In-class quiz & lecture. Office Hours 1-3pm	Prep Days Time for reading, writing, and research. (Short Term: Prep for next week's class. Long Term: Ongoing research and planning for major projects.)						Extra Credit Due 12pm Office Hours 1-3pm
Unit part 2: SCREENING WEEK	Class Meets Screening & discussion. Office Hours 1-3pm	Work on screening analysis assignment.		Screening Analysis Due 12pm	Prep Days		Extra Credit Due 12pm Office Hours 1-3pm	

04 // SFSU RESOURCES

ILEARN TECH SUPPORT //

If you are having problems with iLearn, contact their help desk:

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm

Email: ilearn@sfsu.edu

Phone: (415) 405-5555

Text (SMS): (510) 545-3276 or (510) 5-ILEARN

BASIC NEEDS //

Any student who faces challenges securing food, housing, and/or health care and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. The Dean of Students has a "Dean On Call" Monday - Friday, 8am-5pm, in Student Services Building (SSB) 403.

If you are comfortable doing so, please notify any relevant instructors. This allows your instructors to also provide any resources they have available.

LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER (LAC) //

LAC is a faculty-run tutoring center located in HSS 348. LAC offers tutoring in reading, writing, math, sciences and study skills. Their tutors can help you develop your academic skills, discover patterns and connections between concepts, figure out what you know, and what you still need to learn.

LAC is open Monday - Thursday 9 am - 4 pm and Fridays 9 am - 12 pm. To utilize LAC, visit HSS 348, call (415) 338-1993, email lac@sfsu.edu, or go to <http://lac.sfsu.edu>.

CAMPUS ACADEMIC RESOURCE PROGRAM (CARP) //

CARP is a student-run academic support program that seeks to provide resources and support services for students of all disciplines. CARP offers free tutoring and workshops for all SF State undergraduates.

CARP is open Monday - Thursday, 4 - 8 pm and Fridays 11 am - 2pm. To utilize CARP, visit HSS 344, call (415) 405-0971, email carp1@sfsu.edu, or go to <http://carp.sfsu.edu>.

STUDENT DISCLOSURES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE //

SF State fosters a campus free of sexual violence including sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and/or any form of sex or gender discrimination. If you disclose a personal experience as an SF State student, the course instructor is required to notify the Dean of Students.

To disclose any such violence confidentially, contact:

The SAFE Place - (415) 338-2208;
http://www.sfsu.edu/~safe_plc

Counseling and Psychological Services Center - (415) 338-2208; <http://psyservs.sfsu.edu>

For more information on your rights and available resources: <http://titleix.sfsu.edu>.

CINE 200 // FALL 2019 // CALENDAR

	DATE	READINGS & SCREENINGS	ASSIGNMENTS & REMINDERS
Intro to the Class	8/27		Mandatory attendance weeks 1 & 2.
Unit 1: Cinematography	9/3	Read: Cinematography, Chapter 4	
	9/10	In Class: Touch of Evil	9/13: Screening Analysis
Unit 2: Mise-en-scène	9/17	Read: Mise-en-scène, Chapter 3	
	9/24	In Class: Far From Heaven	9/27: Screening Analysis
Unit 3: Editing	10/1	Read: Editing, Chapter 5	
	10/8	In Class: Hurt Locker	10/11: Screening Analysis
Unit 4: Sound	10/15	Read: Sound, Chapter 6	10/18: Midterm Project
	10/22	In Class: Selma	10/25: Screening Analysis
Unit 5: Story	10/29	Read: Narrative, Chapter 7	
	11/5	In Class: Wendy & Lucy	11/8: Screening Analysis
Unit 6: Film Criticism	11/12	Read: Reading About Film, Chapter 11	
	11/19	In Class: Do the Right Thing	11/22: Screening Analysis
Thanksgiving Break	11/26		
Unit 7: Beyond Film	12/3	Read: TBD	
	12/10	In Class: Netflix & Premium Cable	12/13: Screening Analysis
Finals Week	12/16 - 12/20		Final Project