**DRAM 2366 / Leydon**

**Course Syllabus: Introduction to Cinema**

Course Title: Introduction to Cinema  
Course Rubric and number: DRAM 2366  
Semester with Course Reference Number (CRN): Fall 2018 (12845)  
Campus and Room Location with Day and Time: Screening Theatre, Alief Hayes Campus, Wednesday 6-9 pm  
Course Semester Credit Hours (SCH): 3 credits  
Course contact hours per semester: 48  
Course length: 16 weeks  
Type of Instruction: Lecture

Instructor: Joe Leydon  
Email address: joseph.leydon@hccs.edu  
Learning web address: [http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/joseph.leydon](http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/joseph.leydon)  
Instructor Scheduled Office Hours and Location: By appointment, Alief Hayes Campus

**Course Description**

This class is designed to introduce students to the history of cinema, with particular emphasis on the aesthetic and technical aspects of historically important or otherwise notable films, and the development of cinema as art, business, and cultural force.

**Instructional Materials**

Other reading material will be available on Learning Web website.

**Class Schedule:**

**AUGUST 29: In the Beginning**  
**Screenings:** Early silent shorts by Lumiere Brothers; “The Great Train Robbery,” “A Trip to the Moon”

**SEPTEMBER 5: Silents, Please!**  
**Screenings:** “The General” (1926) and “The Kid” (1921)

**SEPTEMBER 12:** Outside Assignment – View *Detour* and *D.O.A.* online, read “Film Noir” essay on Learning Web.

**SEPTEMBER 19:** Early Talkies  
**Screening:** “King Kong” (1933)
SEPTEMBER 26: Hooray For Hollywood
Screening: “Stagecoach” (1939)

OCTOBER 3: EXAM NO. 1
Screening: “Casablanca” (1942)

OCTOBER 10: TBA

OCTOBER 17: TBA

OCTOBER 24: The Greatest Movie Ever Made?
Screening: “Citizen Kane” (1941)

OCTOBER 31: Post War Paranoia
Screening: “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” (1956)

NOVEMBER 7: Exam No. 2
Screening: “His Girl Friday” (1940)

NOVEMBER 14: The Master of Suspense
Screening: “Notorious” (1946)

NOVEMBER 21: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

NOVEMBER 28: Postwar Cinema
Screening: “A Face in the Crowd” (1957)

DECEMBER 5: The New Hollywood Era
Screening: “In the Heat of the Night” (1967)

DECEMBER 12: FINAL EXAM
Screening: TBA

Exams. Three multiple-choice exams will be given in this course. You will NOT require Scantrons to take these tests.

Study Guide. Read assigned chapters in “A Short History of Film,” and read/view material on Learning Web page. Also: Watch movies in class.

Exam No. 1 (Chapters 1-4): 25 %
Exam No. 2 (Chapters 5-7): 25 %
Exam No. 3 (Chapters 8-10): 50 %
Grading Scale

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
Below 60 = F

OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT TERM PAPER:

Write an essay report on a classic or contemporary film. (You must get approval for your selection from Professor Leydon.) DO NOT simply provide a plot synopsis. DO discuss in detail various aspects of filmmaking (cinematography, editing, sound, etc.) represented in the film. Essay should be 500-750 words.

SCREENINGS:

The screening schedule is subject to availability of titles. Last-minute substitutions may be made. It is your responsibility to see any films you miss because of excused or unexcused absences.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

Students are expected to be courteous to their classmates at all times, but especially during the screenings of movies in class. This means: No operation of laptops, netbooks, cell phones, computer tablets or any other device that will cause distracting noise and/or illumination. Keep conversations and other spoken comments to an absolute minimum during screenings. Also: Do not bring friends, relatives or small children to class unless prior approval has been given by the instructor.

CORE CURRICULUM STATEMENT:

This course fulfills the core competencies:

Reading: Reading at the college level means having the ability to understand, analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials: books, articles, and documents.

Writing: Writing at the college level means having the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to a specific purpose, occasion, and audience. In addition to knowing how to use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation, students should also become adept with the writing process, including how to determine a topic, how to organize and develop it, and how to phrase it effectively for their audience. These abilities are acquired through practice and reflection.

Speaking: Effective speaking is the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience.

Listening: Listening at the college level means having the ability to understand, analyze, and interpret various forms of spoken communication.
**Critical Thinking:** Critical thinking embraces methods for applying both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies. Problem solving is one of the applications of critical thinking used to address an identified task.

**Computer Literacy:** Computer literacy at the college level means having the ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, solving problems, and acquiring information. Core-educated students should have an understanding of the limits, problems, and possibilities associated with the use of technology and should have the tools necessary to evaluate and learn new technologies as they become available.

**HCC Policy Statement - ADA**

**Services to Students with Disabilities**
Students who require reasonable accommodations for disabilities are encouraged to report to Dr. Becky Hauri at 713-718-7910 to make necessary arrangements. Faculty is only authorized to provide accommodations by the Disability Support Service Office.

**HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty**

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcement roles. You are expected to be familiar with the University's Policy on Academic Honesty, found in the catalog. What that means is: If you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by College System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. “Scholastic dishonesty”: includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

**Cheating** on a test includes:

- Copying from another students’ test paper;
- Using materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authorization;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered;
- Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.

**Plagiarism** means the appropriation of another’s work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one’s own written work offered for credit.
Collusion mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F in the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. (See the Student Handbook)

HCC Policy Statements

Class Attendance - It is important that you come to class! Attending class regularly is the best way to succeed in this class. Research has shown that the single most important factor in student success is attendance. Simply put, going to class greatly increases your ability to succeed. You are expected to attend all lecture and labs regularly. You are responsible for materials covered during your absences. Class attendance is checked daily. Although it is your responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop you for excessive absences.

If you are not attending class, you are not learning the information. As the information that is discussed in class is important for your career, students may be dropped from a course after accumulating absences in excess of six (6) hours of instruction. The six hours of class time would include any total classes missed or for excessive tardiness or leaving class early.

You may decide NOT to come to class for whatever reason. As an adult making the decision not to attend, you do not have to notify the instructor prior to missing a class. However, if this happens too many times, you may suddenly find that you have “lost” the class.

Poor attendance records tend to correlate with poor grades. If you miss any class, including the first week, you are responsible for all material missed. It is a good idea to find a friend or a buddy in class who would be willing to share class notes or discussion or be able to hand in paper if you unavoidably miss a class.

Class attendance equals class success.

HCC Course Withdrawal Policy

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important. Beginning in fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than six total course withdrawals throughout their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree.

To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor may “alert” you and HCC counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you –
online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

Repeat Course Fee
The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

Classroom Behavior
As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal.

Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices
As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices, and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.

Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations.

Instructor Requirements
As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments

Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

To be successful in this class, it is the student’s responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams:
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts and all assignments

Grading

Your instructor will conduct quizzes, exams, and assessments that you can use to determine how successful you are at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If you find you are not mastering the material and skills, you are encouraged to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. Your instructor welcomes a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance.

Campus Carry Law Notification

At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/.