**THEA 3302—FILM STUDIES**

**LECTURE & LAB W 400-650 TBA**

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**REQUIRED TEXT:**

*The Art of Watching Films,* 8th Edition

Joseph M. Boggs and Dennis W. Petrie

ISBN 9780073386171

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

**THEA 3302** **FILM STUDIES** (2-4) The study of formal, stylistic and interpretative strategies that relate to narrative cinema forms. The course covers three interrelated areas: film narrative, film style, and film history. Selected films are used to illustrate these concepts.

**MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:**

* Two (2) take-home examinations, short-essay involving independent, original research.

(50 % of grade)

Tests will be take-home, short-essay questions which demand a fair amount of independent research. **In lieu of any test,** the student may elect to present a paper of a minimum ten (10) pages which will concern either a script analysis or biography or creative project based on lectures and discussions in class. All submissions will be typed or word-processed, spell-checked, MLA style formatted with a MINIMUM of five (5) citations, and professionally presented on the day of the examination. Please check with your instructor before choosing a topic for a paper.

* Ten (10) exercises based on laboratory work: the *average grade* constitutes a major grade (20% of grade). Exercises will be available on Blackboard and should be submitted electronically to my email address, dmmaher@uta.edu.
* Seven (7) Reading quizzes based on the text: the *average grade* constitutes a major grade. (20% of grade) Quizzes will be available on Blackboard and should be submitted electronically to my email address, [dmmaher@uta.edu](mailto:dmmaher@uta.edu) .
* Attendance and participation (10% of grade).

**Educational Objectives for This Course**

1.      To demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the theatre arts and film.   
2.      To understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.  
3.      To respond critically to works in the theatre arts and film.   
4.      To engage in the creative process or interpretive performance and comprehend the physical and intellectual

demands required of the theatre/film artist.   
5.      To articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the theatre arts and film.  
6.      To develop an appreciation for the aesthetic principles that guide or govern the theatre arts and film.

**Basic Intellectual Competencies Gained Through This Course**

1.      Reading: The ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials as applicable to this course.   
2.      Writing: The ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose as applicable to this course.   
3.      Speaking: The ability to communicate orally in coherent and persuasive language appropriate to purpose,

occasion and audience as applicable to this course.   
4.      Listening: The ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication as applicable to this course.

5.      Critical Thinking: The ability to apply both qualitative and quantitative skills analytically and creatively to the

course subject matter.

6.      Computer Literacy: The ability to use computer-based technology in communicating, solving problems, and/or acquiring information as applicable to this course.

**Perspectives**

1.      Establish multiple perspectives on the individual in relationship to the larger society as applicable to this course.   
2.      Stimulate a capacity to discuss individual, political, economic, and social aspects of life as applicable to this course.   
3.      Recognize the importance of maintaining health and wellness as applicable to course material. 4.      Develop a capacity to use knowledge of how technology and science affect our lives as applicable to this course.   
5.      Develop personal values for ethical behavior in the theatre arts.   
6.      Develop the ability to make aesthetic judgments.   
7.      Use logical reasoning in problem solving.   
8.      Integrate knowledge and understand the interrelationships of the scholarly disciplines.

**Failing to submit a paper past the deadline date is an automatic “F”.**

**Failing to take an examination is an automatic “F”**

**Each student is personally responsible for reading and comprehending the textbook.**

**Attendance:** Although the university does not have an official attendance policy,I strongly believe that regular attendance is essential to success in this course; therefore, I take attendance each and every day of class through a sign-in sheet. **PLEASE SIGN IN ON TIME EACH AND EVERY DAY OF CLASS.**  I will take up the sign-in sheet at 4:05 PM and those who have not signed in after that time are considered absent. **THREE absences are allowed in this class. Each additional unexcused absence will result in your final grade being lowered by one full letter grade.**

**Late Work**: Quizzes may NOT be made up after the fact, but can be taken early by arrangement if necessary. Other late work may be made up IF the instructor has been contacted **within 24 hours** of the missed class or deadline. **Without a doctor’s excuse or prior arrangement with the instructor, all late work will be penalized by a grade of F.**

**Grading:**

**NOTE THIS WELL**: I grade based on the intellectual content of the work, the research that went into the work, and the presentation of the work, including spelling, grammar and syntactical usage of language. I am especially rigorous on spelling errors. If your writing skills are poor, contact the Writing Center to correct them ASAP. *[See Writing Center information below.]*

**Grades**:

Students can make the maximum 100 points through assignments and/or projects. I grade on a simple scale:

100-90 = A

89-80 = B

79-70 = C

69-60 = D

59-0 = F

There is no curve, and each student receives the grade that he/she earns.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels [*see “Student Support Services,” below*.] **The time to be concerned about your grade is NOT the week before finals—it is ALL semester. Email me for assistance in this matter.**

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and* ***I will appropriately reference any work from other sources****. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Conference/Audition Attendance & Participation:** Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and auditions. However, Theatre Arts majors are required to submit an excused absence request to the instructor no less than two full weeks prior to the conference/audition in order for the instructor to consider granting an excused absence. Such notification must be in writing and support documentation will be required to verify the Theatre Arts major’s attendance, completion and/or successful (or professionally worthwhile) participation in said conference or audition. All students are expected to complete all coursework (as stipulated in the syllabus) and all course requirements (as stipulated by the syllabus) in a timely manner (the term “timely manner” will be defined/specified by the instructor at the time the Theatre Arts major submits their excused absence request to the instructor for initial consideration). At the discretion of the instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, Theatre Arts majors are advised to fully consult with the instructor prior to engaging in such activities.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [see map of the nearest exit/emergency exit]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist differently abled individuals.

**Student Support Services**:

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Writing Center** **:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit [https://uta.mywconline.com/](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/luket@exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=jqplelmmw0KcvkWv1pRv_rHS8ofUUtFIXl_CWZTLffEmCPyZf3x4ncUbBmD9p3gSPROCbhSJj7U.&URL=https%3a%2f%2futa.mywconline.com%2f) to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**Librarian to Contact:**

Jody Bailey, [jbailey@uta.edu](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/dmaher@exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=FyE16FovjEqceVgkxP9hKj-1yXIpjNFIuEGa1iMxDjBfwvSrMaEqjyyQmBJCnOkiElbvggFHRRs.&URL=mailto%3ajbailey%40uta.edu), 817.272.7516

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.

For non-emergencies, contact the UTA PD at 817-272-3381.

Library Home Page <http://www.uta.edu/library>

Subject Guides <http://libguides.uta.edu>

Subject Librarians <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php>

Database List <http://www.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php>

Course Reserves <http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do>

Library Tutorials <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php>

Connecting from Off- Campus <http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus>

Ask a Librarian [http://ask.uta.edu](http://ask.uta.edu/)

The following URL houses a page where we have gathered many commonly used resources needed by students in online courses: <http://www.uta.edu/library/services/distance.php>.

The subject librarian for your area can work with you to build a customized course page to support your class if you wish. For examples, visit <http://libguides.uta.edu/os> and <http://libguides.uta.edu/pols2311fm> . If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Suzanne Beckett, at [sbeckett@uta.edu](mailto:sbeckett@uta.edu) or at 817.272.0923.

**Questions? Problems? Contact me and I will get to you as soon as humanly possible.** [dmmaher@uta.edu](mailto:dmmaher@uta.edu)