

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: CST 151

Credits: 3

Course Title: Film Appreciation I

Course Description: Provides students with a critical understanding of film through the discussion and viewing of motion pictures with emphasis upon the study of film history and the forms and functions of film. Students will develop skills to analyze the shared social, cultural, and historical influences of films and their contexts. Prerequisite: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 04 if required by reading placement test. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: Course focuses on the ability to understand content, theory, and structure of film in order to effectively apply principles of criticism and to more deeply appreciate movies as art form, social phenomena, and source of comment on current conditions of national life.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: English placement recommendation for ENG 111 and satisfactory completion of ENG 04 if required by reading placement test.

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Explore how films communicate ideas to an audience;
- b. Understand the nature and scope of how film is studied and critiqued;
- c. Understand the role of film genres and their content, structure, style, and purpose;
- d. Question role as passive spectator and to develop ability to think critically about film;
and
- e. Explore techniques of film criticism in order to become a more responsive viewer.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Introduction to film media and process of film creation
- b. Introduction to vocabulary and fundamentals of film structure
- c. Viewing and discussion of significant examples of film genres and their critiques
- d. The role of the auteur filmmakers in making significant contributions to the motion picture industry
- e. Exploration of how technology of movies relates to film art
- f. The role of the audience as consumer, critic, and fan

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: January 7, 2010