

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: CST 152

Credits: 3

Course Title: Film Appreciation II

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 the skills to analyze the shared social, cultural, and historical influences of films and their contexts. The course focuses on the interplay of contemporary aspects of film creation such as diverse audiences, economic realities, and emerging media formats. Prerequisites: Fluency in standard American English; placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: Students successfully completing this course will be able to examine and discuss the different techniques a contemporary film embodies, the choice of film topics or themes, and how the film communicates both overtly and covertly to the audience. Students will become aware of how film elements often manipulate viewer understanding and how films address both accepted and challenged societal norms, political and cultural values. This course serves as a humanities elective for the Liberal Arts AA, Social Science AS, and any degree with a humanities elective requirement.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisites: Fluency in standard American English; placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites: ENG 111 and ENF 3

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Identify the development of major film genres within contemporary cinema;
- b. Describe the key historical moments of contemporary film history, including technical developments;
- c. Name the major contributors to the development of contemporary cinema, including key directors, cinematographers, and scriptwriters;
- d. Recognize the value of the diversity of cultures and opinions demonstrated through this medium;
- e. Interpret and appreciate prevailing cultural icons, generalizations, symbols, and societal challenges as portrayed in contemporary film; and
- f. Write and speak clearly about film in regard to its history, development, and audience acceptance/reaction.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Contemporary history of American cinema
- b. Structure of film language and technical developments
- c. Significant contemporary film directors and films
- d. Genre in contemporary film creation
- e. Film influence on emerging societal and political issues
- f. Interplay of American film industry with world cinema and international audiences

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: September 18, 2015