



This course examines the techniques used by media communicators to share meaning, influence and entertain mass audiences with sounds and images. The course will familiarize you with principles of media literacy focusing on the techniques used to communicate meaning, what are referred to as media aesthetics, and their communicative functions within the production of media, specifically film and television. We will examine and judge media critically from the perspective of an art and as a form of communications, not merely as entertainment. *This course is a requirement in the Broadcast-Cinema Program.*

Professor Richard Lenoce

MW 10-11am, TR 11am-12pm [email: rlenoce@mxcc.edu](mailto:rlenoce@mxcc.edu) or (860) 343-5796, Chapman 606

Grade Breakdown

On-Line Quizzes based on lectures	60%
Scene Analysis Essays (3) <i>Photography, Mise en Scene, Editing</i>	20%
Final Exam Paper	20%

<i>Twin Falls Idaho</i> (1999)	<i>The Graduate</i> (1967)	<i>The Sopranos - S06E21</i>	<i>Rebel Without a Cause</i> (1955)
Opt.: Watch by 9/25	Watch week of 10/3	Watch week of 10/31	Watch week of 11/14

<i>North by Northwest</i> (1959)	<i>The Searchers</i> (1956)	<i>Citizen Kane</i> (1941)
Watch week of 11/21	Watch week of 11/28	Watch for Final Research Paper Assigned 11/7

Course Requirements and Expectations

What makes good and effective media particularly film and video in both content (the message) and form (the style used to communicate the message)? That is the question that will be examined in this course. How well you understand and interpret the aesthetic elements from the readings, discussions and viewings, and your ability to apply that knowledge through analysis and criticism will ultimately determine your success in this course.

Weekly Lectures. Lectures are Password Protected. A link on the course home page will bring you to the lectures website. A password is required. The password is **Moviemagic** (capital M, the rest lower case), **Like a weekly on-ground lecture, lectures take about 3 hours to read through not including study time.** Each lecture has 15-23 web pages and should be studied thoroughly to pass the weekly quiz.

Online Quizzes

Quizzes correspond to an assigned lecture reading. The first quiz, *Week 1-Introduction to Aesthetics*, is open on the first day of class and can be taken multiple times for the best grade. All other quizzes can be taken only once. Study and take notes just like any other lecture. Each quiz has a specific due date in the course calendar (see page 4 and 5) when it will be turned off and no longer accessible. Quiz 2-11 will be open starting the second week but will close on the dates specified allowing those people who wish to move ahead to do so. **Quizzes are listed by Week and Topic. When you sign on to take a quiz be sure to select the Quiz for that week. If you are unsure, check the course calendar in this syllabus.**

Quizzes contain a mix of 20-25 multiple choice and true/false questions. *Quizzes are timed.* You may take the first quiz multiple times and all other quizzes, once. When you submit the quiz, you will get the grade but will NOT see the correct answers until the quiz is offline to all students. **Once a quiz goes offline, it will not be re-opened. If a quiz, shuts down or your internet is disconnected while taking it, please contact me before the quiz goes offline (another reason for taking the quiz early).**

Quiz Closing Dates-Quizzes have set closing dates every Sunday evening. Quizzes will not be reopened past the close date. **It is advised that you don't wait until the closing date/time (Sundays @ 11:55pm) to take the quiz as if there's a problem, odds are tech support or I will not be able to resolve it in time.**

Scene Analysis Essays

The most important aspect of media literacy, and what the lectures will prepare you for, is the ability to analyze media. The three *Scene Analysis Essays* on *Photography*, *Mise en Scene* and *Editing* will demonstrate your ability to analyze media and the techniques used to communicate meaning. Each analysis involves watching an entire film and finding its theme(s); then analyzing a 2-4 minute scene that uses the aesthetic discussed in the assignment to best express meaning within that scene. The assignment sheet will clearly demonstrate how I expect the analysis organized, formatted and written with examples.

Final Research Paper

There will be a comprehensive Final Research Paper assigned around mid-semester. The research paper will be due during the final week of class.

A Note about Writing Quality

This is a 200-level communications course and therefore it is expected you are taking or have taken and passed *English101 Composition*. In your research and writing, you should strive for the highest quality. Spelling and grammar count and points *will* be deducted for each error. All essays and the final research paper must be well researched, properly formatted using MLA style, academically formal in tone and must use proper terminology when discussing aesthetics.

Online Technical Support

Blackboard Learn and Login MyCommnet support is available. Go to <http://mxcc.edu/distance> for information or <http://www.commnet.edu/portal/help>. I can help with quiz issues (you lost an internet connection while taking the quiz) or content questions but cannot provide technical support. If you are unsure, don't hesitate to email me.

Some tips on taking on-line quizzes

- A solid Broadband Internet Connection will reduce potential problems. It's best to take quizzes from a computer hard wired to the Internet such as DSL, Cable or any computer at school.
- Don't take a quiz with a mobile device (phone, iPad, tablet). The technology is not supported.
- Quizzes are given in pop-up windows so please disable any pop-up blockers prior to taking the quiz as this is the #1 problem students have. In most browsers you can set an exception to pop up blocking so when you go to the blackboard domain it's recognized and the pop-up blocker gets turned off. Check with your browser's developer for more information.

- Close all open applications including email when taking quizzes.
- Quizzes are timed. Submit each answer and then submit the entire quiz at the end. *You must submit the quiz for it to be recorded.*
- I don't reopen quizzes past the due date though I can reset them during that week if there's a problem. If a quiz shuts down before being submitted I can check the quiz submittal history and may be able to hand grade it. When in doubt, please ask.
- Having a broken computer or losing power is no excuse for being unable to do course work.** The computer you use doesn't have to be your computer. Any computer on or off campus will do. It's important to have a **backup plan in the event your computer fails, power goes out, etc.** Any backup plan should start with taking the quiz a day or two before it is due giving you enough time to implement the plan.
- The lowest quiz grade is dropped. This benefits those who miss a quiz, have technical problems or do poorly on a quiz.
- Important areas of information for study can often times be found highlighted in **bold in the lectures.**

Course Calendar

I. Overview

<u>Course Calendar</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Lecture</u>
Week 1 <i>August 29-September 4</i>	Introduction to Aesthetics Relationship of Content and Form, Aesthetic selection & Context, Realism/Classicism/Formalism <i>Quiz "Introduction" due Sunday, September 4 @ 11:55pm.</i>	Week1 Introduction
Week 2 <i>September 5-11</i>	History of Media Aesthetics Development of Motion Picture Technology and Art Film (Optional): <i>Twin Falls Idaho</i> <i>Quiz on "Motion Picture History" due Sunday, September 11@ 11:55pm</i>	Week 2 History

II. Visual Design. Analyzing "The Shot"

Week 3 & 4 <i>September 12-25</i>	Photography: Shots, angles, light/dark, Lenses, High key/low key lighting, color <i>Quiz "Photography" due Sunday, September 25 @ 11:55pm</i> <i>Essay #1 on Photography Assigned</i>	Week 3&4 Photography
Week 5 <i>Sept 26 -October 2</i>	Mise En Scene: Staging, Setting, Framing, Composition No Quiz this week. The Mise En Scene is due quiz next week, Mise en Scene	Week 4
Week 6 <i>October 3-9</i>	Mise en Scene Study: Watch Film: <i>The Graduate</i> <i>Quiz Mise en Scene due Sunday, October 9 @ 11:55pm.</i> <i>Essay #1 Photography Due October 9</i> <i>Essay #2 Assigned and is due October 23</i>	Week 5 <i>The Graduate</i>
Week 7 <i>October 10-16</i>	Movement: The Art of Motion and Movement <i>Quiz on "Movement" due Sunday, October 16 @ 11:55pm</i>	Week 6

II. Analyzing Narrative Structure and Story Elements

Week 8 <i>October 17-23</i>	Editing: Styles: Sequence Shots and Continuity Editing No quiz this week , Editing quiz is November 6 <i>Essay # 2 Mise en Scene and The Graduate due October 23</i> <i>Essay #3 Editing - Assigned due November 13</i>	Week 7 Editing Lecture 1
Week 9 <i>October 24 - October 30</i>	Editing Styles: Classic Cutting and Montage	Week 8 Editing Lecture 2
Week 10 <i>October 31- November 6</i>	Watch Film and Write Editing Analysis #3: <i>Run Lola Run</i> <i>Editing Quiz" Due Sunday, November 6 @ 11:55pm</i>	Week 9 <i>Run Lola Run</i>
Week 11 <i>November 7-13</i>	Sound & Sound Design <i>Research Paper Assigned</i> <i>Quiz #7 "Sound" Due Sunday, November 13</i> <i>Editing Essay # 3 on The Sopranos-Final Episode Sunday, November 13 @ 11:55pm</i>	Week 10 Sound
Week 12 <i>November 14-20</i>	Acting: Styles, Silent, British, and Method <i>Quiz #8 Acting due Sunday, November 20 @ 11:55pm</i> <i>Watch Film: Rebel Without a Cause</i>	Week 11 Acting

Week 13 <i>Nov. 21 - 27</i>	Story and Writing <i>Watch Film: Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest</i> <i>Quiz on "Story and Writing" due Sunday, November 27 @ 11:55pm</i>	Week 12 Story & Writing
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III. Film Art and Ideology, Film Theory and Criticism

Week 14 <i>November 28 -Dec. 4</i>	Film as Literature & Ideology: The director as <i>Auteur</i> : Genre and Ideology <i>Watch Film: John Ford's The Searchers</i> , one man's view of American history and politics <i>Quiz on "Ideology" due December 4 @ 11:55pm</i>	Week 13 Ideology
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Week 15 December 5-11	Film Theory & Critique <i>Quiz 12 on due Sunday, December 11 @ 11:55pm</i>	Week 14
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Final	Research Paper Due, WEDNESDAY, December 14 by 11:55pm	
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Quiz Closing Dates Closing dates are always on a Sunday evening. It is STRONGLY advised that you don't wait until the closing date/time (Sundays @ 11:55pm) to take the quiz as if there's a problem, odds are tech support or I will not be able to resolve it in time.

<u>Quiz Closing Date</u>	<u>What You Should Study</u>
Sunday, September 4	Week 1: Introduction to Media Aesthetics
Sunday, September 11	Week 2: History of Motion Pictures
Sunday, September 25	Week 3: Photography
Sunday, October 9	Week 4 & 5 Mise en Scene and Viewing of The Graduate
Sunday, October 16	Week 6: Movement
Sunday, November 6	Week 7 , 8 & 9: Editing & Editing Styles: Sequence Shots, Cutting to Continuity, Classic Cutting, Montage, Movie: Run Lola Run
Sunday, November 13	Week 10: Sound
Sunday, November 20	Week 11: Acting
Sunday, November 27	Week 12: Story and Writing and Alfred Hitchcock's North by Northwest
Sunday, December 4	Week 13: Ideology and John Ford's The Searchers
Sunday, December 11	Week 14: Criticism.

Essay Due Dates

Sunday, October 9	Scene Analysis, Photography: Choose Film From List
Sunday, October 23	Scene Analysis, Mise en Scene, The Graduate
Sunday, November 13	Scene Analysis, Editing, Run Lola Run
Wednesday, December 14	Final Research Paper: Citizen Kane

Outcomes

Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze, evaluate and comment on the aesthetics used in filmmaking with the goal of applying that knowledge to their production classes.

Content

- Students will learn how filmmakers express ideas using the aesthetic elements of film (photography, mise en scene, editing, audio, scriptwriting, etc.)
- Students will learn the techniques used to achieve aesthetic results
- Students will learn how filmmakers effectively communicate ideas through aesthetics
- Students will learn the differences between Realism and Formalism
- Students will learn the artistic movements of the 20th century and their influence on filmmaking realism, neo-realism, surrealism, the avante garde, german expressionism, noir.
- Students will learn the various theories associated with film and how they are applied

Techniques

- Students will understand composition and related techniques deep focus, compositional balance and weight, etc.
- Students will learn the effective use of mise en scene, how objects and characters relate within in a frame to express deeper meaning
- Students will learn how audio is used effectively in filmmaking
- Students will learn that editing is the narrative structure of film
- Students will learn and identify the two main styles of film editing American Classic/Parallel Editing and Soviet Montage.
- Students will learn how film is used to express ideology
- Students will learn the primary acting styles British, American and Method used in film.

Form and style

- Students will understand clearly the difference between form (style) and content
- Students will learn that film is first a means of communications and that style derives from the content.

Process

- Students will understand the various processes--from idea, script, pre-production, production and post production that goes into creating a film.

Addendum COM203: Addendum: Identified Broadcast-Cinema Program Outcomes

This course meets the following Outcomes and Competencies in the Broadcast Communications program:

Content

- Students can express ideas using the aesthetic elements used in film and broadcast media (photography, mise en scene, editing, audio, scriptwriting, acting, etc.)
- Students can develop a thesis and perform research in preparation for creating scripts and producing programming for broadcast journalism, documentary and entertainment programs
- Students effectively communicate ideas through the production process using aesthetic elements and tools used in the industry
- Students understand art direction and how sets, backgrounds, color, lighting and artistic style effect images
- Students used basic compositional elements used in design to create images

- Students use critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate program content and quality
- Students use critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate program content and quality to improve their writing and production skills

Organization

- Students will understand how program creation is organized: Pre-Production, Production and Post-Production.

Style

- Students learn how varying production conditions and specific techniques such as lighting, audio, varying editing, adding effects, can develop a unique visual and personal style
- Students understand how content effects form/style and can apply techniques to enhance communications
- Students apply various musical styles, effects and transitions to enhance production content

IMPORTANT COLLEGE POLICIES!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

For information about the college's policies and procedures regarding academic honesty, accessibility/disability services, attendance, audio-recording in the classroom, grade appeals, plagiarism, religious accommodations, weather and emergency closings, and more, please go to the following website: www.mxcc.edu/catalog/syllabus-policies/ or scan the QR code with your smart phone. Also, please become familiar with the policies regarding nondiscrimination, sexual misconduct, and general student conduct at the following website: www.mxcc.edu/nondiscrimination/.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Middlesex Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints regarding non-discrimination policies and practices:

Primary Title IX Coordinator

Dr. Adrienne Maslin

Dean of Students/Title IX and Section 504/ADA Coordinator
amaslin@mxcc.edu; 860-343-5759; Founders Hall Room 123|

Title IX Coordinator-Meriden

Ms. Queen Fordham

Coordinator of the Meriden Center Welcome Desk
qfordham@mxcc.edu; 203-608-3011