

# Course Syllabus

**Department:** Humanities

**Date:** 6 March 2012

**I. Course Prefix and Number:** CIN 260

**Course Name:** Cinema as an Art Form – Silent Era

**Credit Hours and Contact Hours:** 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

**Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites:**

The motion picture as an integral art form will be studied from historic and aesthetic perspectives. Emphasis will be placed on the silent era and its technological development, genres, directors, stars, and themes. Writing Intensive.

Prerequisite: ENG 101 or ENG 104.

**II. Course Outcomes and Objectives**

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- To acquaint students with the unique qualities of the film as an art form.
- To provide students with an awareness of the film as an index and locus for social change.
- To show the relevance of the film as an art form to other art forms.
- To acquaint students with the historical development of the film as an art form.

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:** This course fulfills a Humanities or Fine Arts requirement.

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| x writing                            | x computer literacy     |
| x oral communications                | x ethics/values         |
| x reading                            | x citizenship           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics | x global concerns       |
| x critical thinking                  | x information resources |

### **III. Instructional Materials and Methods**

#### **Types of Course Materials:**

A textbook such as Mast and Kavin: *A Brief History of Film* with weekly, in-class presentations of selected motion pictures.

#### **Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar ...):**

- Actively view motion pictures in class
- Class discussion of screened motion pictures
- Maintain journal of personal responses to films and to assigned readings
- Discussion of the assigned readings

### **IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):**

Each student will write a researched essay—in Modern Language Association style—demonstrating knowledge of the evolution of filmmaking and the influence of technical advancements in cinema. These essays will identify the primary characteristics of silent cinema as well as the contributions of major filmmakers and will convey an awareness of the influence of the over-arching technical, artistic, and political characteristics of the age.

### **V. General Outline of Topics Covered:**

- The Birth of the Motion Picture
- Using a Camera to Tell a Story
- The One-Reelers
- D. W. Griffith
- The Hollywood Studio and Star System
- Expressionism and the German Golden Age
- Soviet Montage