

**Midland College**  
**Syllabus**  
**DRAM 2366**  
**Introduction to Cinema**  
**Semester and Year**  
**SCH (3-0)**  
**Instructor Name**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Survey and analyze cinema including history, film techniques, production procedures, selected motion pictures, and cinema's impact on and reflection of society.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

1. Analyze film through written responses.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of film history, form, and genre.
3. Describe the collaborative nature of cinema and the many jobs required to develop a motion picture.
4. Discuss/Describe the relationship of cinema to society as it relates to his/her perspective.
5. Discuss the elements of film and the art of film production;
6. Analyze a screenplay's dramatic structure, theme, characters, plot, dialogue, and rhythm;
7. Criticize a film in terms of its spectacle and performance elements;
8. Participate in the creation of a film;
9. Research and present a written analysis integrating and synthesizing sources to explain a film's aesthetic and historical significance, its role as a transmitter of cultural values, and its role in the student's emotional and intellectual life;
10. Work effectively in teams;
11. Demonstrate social responsibility by attending a film presentation;
12. Demonstrate the ability to explore global/cultural diversity in film;
13. Demonstrate an understanding of the social responsibilities of film making, including responsibilities regarding ethics and culture.

## Core Objectives

This course fulfills three hours of the Creative Arts requirement in the Midland College Core Curriculum. The Core Curriculum is a set of courses that provide students with a foundation of knowledge, skills, and educational experiences that are essential for all learning.

Creative Arts courses focus on the appreciation and analysis of creative artifacts and works of the human imagination. They involve the synthesis and interpretation of artistic expression and enable critical, creative, and innovative communication about works of art. As part of the core, this course addresses the following four Creative Arts core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking Skills:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. Critical Thinking will be addressed through the evaluation, comparison, and analysis of historical periods, aesthetic principles, and artistic genres.
- **Communication Skills:** to include effective written, oral, and visual communication. Communications Skills will be addressed through the students' expression of informed opinions, researched ideas, and visual presentations.
- **Teamwork:** to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal. Teamwork will be addressed through the collaborative work between students.
- **Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities. Social Responsibility will be addressed through the study of the artistic, historical, and cultural diversity of artists.

## REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS (Text may vary)

Flashback: A Brief History of Film (5th ed.) by Giannetti and Eyman

Adobe Reader (Links to an external site)

## COURSE POLICIES

### STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AND CLASS POLICIES

Films shown in class

Through the course of the semester you will view approximately 6 films in class covering a wide range of genres. Each film will be preceded by a brief lecture on the genre and followed by a group discussion. Contributions to discussions will be credited toward your participation grade.

### Reading assigned chapter

Instead of lecture over the development and history of film in the US, you will be responsible for reading chapters from the book. Chapters assigned are 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 18 & 20

### Chapter Quizzes

Ten quizzes will be given over each chapter assigned for reading. Quizzes will be available online from 8:00 a.m. on Monday through 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday during the week they are to be taken. Worth a maximum of 20 points each.

### Exams

Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1,2,3,5,6 and 8 as well as all movies seen in class and lectures given up to the exam. Worth 100 points

Final Exam will cover chapters 10,12,16,18 and 20 as well as all movies seen in class and lectures given after the midterm. Worth a maximum of 100 points

### Plagiarism

Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material from books, encyclopedias, and other reference works (including the Internet) or from the themes, reports, or other writing of anyone, is guilty of plagiarism.

Students cheating or committing plagiarism are liable to serious consequences, which may include suspension and/or a grade of "F".

### Special Class Rule

Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part.

We do not accept excuses about computers and/or printers breaking down, dogs eating papers, missed performances due to sell-outs, leaving the work at home, etc. Plan your semester now! Do not wait until the last minute to do your work! You need not ask permission to miss a class, leave a class early, or present a late assignment.

### Special testing instruction

All online tests will be given a time limit. Time limits will be announced online with the test instructions. You will be penalized one point for every minute you exceed the time allowed. All quizzes and exams must be taken as scheduled- no make-ups allowed.

### Film Critiques

In addition to the films seen in class, you are required to view and critique four additional films. These two-page critiques will focus on at least two important aspects that made the film either a success or failure. Critique films must be either first-run films or appear on the AFI top 100 list found on the link provided on the website. Worth a maximum of 50 points each.

### Film Script

In order to reach a better understanding of the importance of the script and how film narrative differs from literature and theatrical narrative, you will write a short (4 pages maximum) script. You will base this script on a short story found on the website. Worth a maximum of 50 points.

### Story Board

To better understand how a script is turned into a film, you will create a story board that pictorially outlines a script. Worth a maximum of 50 points.

### Term Project

To prove your understanding of the art of film making, you will take part in the creation of an original film. Your participation level and your results will determine the final grade. Worth a maximum of 200 points: 100 points participation and 100 points results.

### Participation

Continual and effective class participation factors include, but may not be limited to, joining class discussions, regular and timely class attendance, and completion of all assignments. Worth a maximum of 100 points.

### Written Work

All written work must be typed using double-spaced, Courier font of no greater than 12 point. Margins should be 1-inch on all sides. Papers are to be left-justified only! All work must adhere to formatting requirements. Pages must be stapled together. All assignments must have your name in the upper right hand corner of the first page of the paper (DO NOT USE A TITLE PAGE). Your name may be written *neatly* by hand. If this information is missing and/or the assignment is formatted incorrectly, the grade will be lowered. For specifics on the film script formatting, see the in-class hand-out.

### Attendance

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Arriving late or leaving early is equivalent to an absence. Extra work to erase absences is not permitted. You may miss one class during the semester without penalty. Your participation grade will be lowered 50% for your 2nd missed class, and reduced to 0 for your 3rd missed class. Upon the 4th missed class, you should withdraw from the course. Because you receive “free” absences, absences, including illness, transportation problems, and other commitments are not generally excusable. Arrange appointments with doctors, exams for other classes, etc., at times other than during this class.

**❖ THE PROFESSOR WILL NOT ADMINISTRATIVELY WITHDRAW STUDENTS FROM THE COURSE. SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO DROP, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO THROUGH THE REGISTRAR.**

### Academic Integrity

Cheating — Dishonesty on examinations and quizzes or written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination or quiz, obtaining information during an examination from the examination paper or otherwise from another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry to or unauthorized presence in an office are instances of cheating.  
choice!

## EVALUATION OF STUDENTS

### Grading

Keep a copy of written assignments and graded assignments. Any assignment not turned in on the day it is due, will be considered late. **Late assignments will receive only 1/2 credit**, and will only be accepted until the beginning of the next class.

Assignments and exams will be graded on a sliding scale in terms of quality, content, spelling, grammar, and adherence to formatting rules. Receiving all points for an assignment is equal to getting a score of 100%

Quizzes 10 @ 20 points each	maximum of	200 points
Exam 2 @ 100 points each	maximum of	200 points
Critiques 4 @ 50 points each	maximum of	200 points
Script	maximum of	50 points
Story Board	maximum of	50 points
Term Project	maximum of	200 points
Participation	<u>maximum of</u>	<u>100 points</u>
	Total of	1000 points

### FINAL GRADE SCALE

A= 900+; B= 800-899; C= 700-799; D= 600-699; F= 0-599

### Student Profile and Final Grades

An "A" student completes all assignments, grades average "A," participates frequently and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude toward the subject matter and fellow students, and misses class no more than once. A "B" student completes all assignments, grades average "B," participates frequently and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude towards the subject matter fellow students, and misses class no more than 2 times.

A “C” student completes all assignments, grades average “C,” participates occasionally and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude toward the subject matter and fellow students, and misses class no more than 3 times.

A “D” student completes all assignments, grades average “D,” participates infrequently and appropriately during class discussions, projects a positive attitude toward the subject matter and fellow students, and misses class no more than 4 times.

## **ATTENDANCE IN IVC CLASSES**

Early College High School and Dual Credit students must show themselves on camera at least once AND turn in that day’s classtime tasks to be counted presented.

## **PROHIBITION OF AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDING OF INSTRUCTOR AND CLASS ACTIVITIES**

Students may not make audio or visual recordings of any face-to-face or electronic class activities, including, for example, discussions, conferences, and lectures. **The only exception is for students with a disability documented according to Midland College ADA Statement and Midland College-ordered accommodations specifically authorizing such recording.**

## **DROP / WITHDRAWAL**

The student is responsible for initiating a drop or withdrawal, not the instructor.

**Withdrawal from course:** The instructor is not able to withdraw a student from the course after the census date. A student wishing to withdraw must fill out the **withdrawal form in MyMCPortal.**

## **2021-2022 WITHDRAWAL DATES**

<b>Fall</b>	November 11
<b>Fall First 8-Week Session</b>	September 30
<b>Fall Second 8-Week Session</b>	November 29
<b>December Mini-Semester</b>	December 27
<b>Spring</b>	April 14
<b>Spring First 8-Week Session</b>	February 24
<b>Spring Second 8-Week Session</b>	April 28
<b>May Mini-Semester</b>	May 26
<b>Summer I</b>	June 30

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH

For Research information, tutorials, library information, web links and more, access the **Distance Learning Webpage for the [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#)** (Links to an external site).

### Academic Database Access

1. Go to [Midland College Fasken Learning Resource Center](#) (Links to an external site).
2. Click on big green box labeled “A-Z Databases.”
3. Click on “EBSCO”
4. Then click on “EBSCO” database. **You will be taken to the Midland College Microsoft 365 site, and from there you will be taken directly to EBSCO.**
5. **Sign in to Microsoft 365.**

**Username:** Use your MC student email address as the username.

**Password:** Put in your password as follows.

#### If you have a 9-digit MC Student ID

1st initial of your first name + 1st three initials of your last name + your complete Midland College student ID

**Example:**

Student: John Smith

MC ID: 123004567

Password = **jsmi123004567**

#### If you have a 5-digit MC Student ID

1st initial of your first name + 1st three initials of your last name + 0000 + your complete Midland College student ID

**Example:**

Student: John Smith

MC ID: 12345

Password = **jsmi000012345**

After you log in you will have the option to change your Microsoft 365 password. Hint: You may want to simplify your life by changing your MC email and Canvas accounts to have the same password as Microsoft 365.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you experience technical difficulties with Canvas, click the **Help** link at the bottom of the [Canvas login page](#) (Links to an external site), or at the bottom of the green toolbar on the left while in Canvas. Select Report a Problem, provide details, and submit the ticket. Your request will automatically be sent to the Midland College information technology support center. Check your email for support updates.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:**

Midland College provides services for students with disabilities through Student Services. In order to receive accommodations, students must visit [www.midland.edu/accommodation](http://www.midland.edu/accommodation) and complete the Application for Accommodation Services located under the Apply for Accommodations tab. Services or accommodations are not automatic, each student must apply and be approved to receive them. All documentation submitted will be reviewed and a "Notice of Accommodations" letter will be sent to instructors outlining any reasonable accommodations.

**Phone, Midland College Special Needs Counselor: 432-685-5598**

[Midland College Disability Services](#) (Links to an external site)

[Microsoft Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Canvas Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Turnitin Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Adobe Reader Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

[Google Reader Accessibility](#) (Links to an external site)

## **ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES**

[Academics and Student Services](#) (Links to an external site)

**Phone, Midland College Testing Center: 432-685-4735**

**Phone, LanguageHub, Midland College On-Campus Writing Center: 432-685-4811, 182 TC**

**Language Hub Online** (available to all students in Canvas)

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUE PROCESS

[Midland College Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) (Links to an external site)

## **PRIVACY POLICIES**

The below privacy policies apply to this course, as they are applicable to your conduct on this online platform.

[Midland College Website Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site)

[Canvas Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site)

[YouTube Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site)

[Canvas Student Guide](#) (Links to an external site)

[Turnitin Privacy Policy](#) (Links to an external site)

### **Instructor Information:**

Instructor Name:

Email:

Office Location:

Office Phone:

Office Hours:

Department Chair: Rabon Bewley

Fine Arts and Communications Division Dean: Dr. William Feeler

Secretary: Ms. Lula Lee

Division Office: 135 AFA

Phone: 432-685-4624

Division Office hours: 8-5, Monday-Friday

## **Non-Discrimination Statement**

Midland College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following individual has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

### **Tana Baker**

Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer

3600 N. Garfield, SSC 131

Midland, Texas 79705

(432) 685-4781

[tbaker@midland.edu](mailto:tbaker@midland.edu)

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the ED.gov Office of Civil Rights website, or call 1 (800) 421-3481.

**UPDATED AUGUST 2021**