



Introduction to Film Genres

				
Instructor: Gamil Alamrani	gamil.alamrani@scupi.cn (preferred)	28- 85990100- 217	SCUPI R: 427	Mon: 11.00 am-4.00 pm Tues: 11.00 am-4.00 pm Thurs. 5.00 pm -7.00 pm Available on Wed. by appointment

Course Description

Introduction to Film Genres course introduces the theoretical, artistic, and historical background of various film genres as distinctive, stylistic and narrative systems aimed to connect with certain audiences. The course provides a survey of different film genres including genres such as epics, histories, comedies, horror, and science fiction. Students will watch at least fifteen films and read one or two academic sources about each genre. They will gain knowledge of the sophisticated frameworks invested into creating these genres, including history, the narrative, ideology, production, economic value, and technical and digital features.

Suggested Texts and other resources

Access to a movie-streaming platform such as Netflix

Assigned readings on BB (All readings will be made available in Blackboard (<https://pibb.scu.edu.cn>) under the “Content” tab).

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Understand the history and theoretical background of film genre
2. Evaluate the strength and weakness in major films and genres
3. Understand the social, cultural, and political context of various films and the ideologies they sponsor.

4. Articulate their evaluations and critique about certain theoretical or artistic aspects of film genres
- 5-Evaluate the portrayal of various ethnic, racial, and cultural stereotypes of different cultures and social groups

Weekly Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class at the instructor's discretion.

Week 1	Introduction to the course: What is film genre? Group Projects Assigned.
Week 2	Epic movies: Grand Narratives, Histories, Nation Building
Week 3	Epic movies: Grand Narratives, Histories, Nation Building
Week 4	Comedies: Romantic: Screwball, Action, Standup, etc.
Week 5	Comedies: Romantic: Screwball, Action, Standup, etc.
Week 6	Horror movies: Psychological, Monster, Paranormal, Gothic
Week 7	Horror movies: Psychological, Monster, Paranormal, Gothic
Week 8	Class Projects Review
Week 9	Crime movies: Violence, Crime, and the Other
Week 10	Hybrid Movies: Fate, Chaos, Alienation of the Postmodern
Week 11	Hybrid Movies: Fate, Chaos, Alienation of the Postmodern
Week 12	Science Fiction movies: Technology, Utopia/Dystopia, AI
Week 13	Science Fiction movies: Technology, Utopia/Dystopia, AI
Week 14	Class Projects Presentation
Week 15	Class Projects Presentation
Week 16	Final Workshop
Week 15	Final Project Submission

Assignments and Evaluation

There are no exams or quizzes on this course. This course is project-based and will require significant commitment. The course includes a combination of reading, writing, viewing, in-class discussion, and a final research project. The following **four** components are vital to the successful completion of this course. Details of the assignments will be uploaded to the Blackboard.

1. Homework (20%)

Students will have homework throughout the semester (including readings, images, videos, maps and/or visualizations to address each film genre). Themes, questions, resources, and ideas related to our weekly discussions will be shared online on Bb. Question and project for homework will be assigned weekly. Students should submit their homework no later than the Friday night before class. Students will be responsible for leading and actively participating in class discussions based on their homework.

2. Group Presentation (20%)

In small groups, students will be expected to prepare a creative and interactive group presentation on one of the week's topics. The presentation will be assigned on a weekly basis. There will be a brief Q&A after each presentation and students are expected to contribute and give feedback on other students' presentations. The time frame for each presentation is 15 to 30 minutes, including the Q&A session.

3. Final Writing Project (40%)

Students will conduct their final research project on a chosen theme in a specific theme of film genre. The rubric and further instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

4. Attendance and Participation (20%)

The final grade will be greatly affected by students' attendance and participation, which includes discussions, Blackboard forums, and any other assignments inside and outside of class. For each part of a class period missed, a student will receive a deduction of half the point value of a full absence for that day. Class participation will be assessed holistically based on students' engagement in class activities.

Attendance Policy:

Students' attendance is mandatory. Each unexcused absence will bear a penalty of half a letter grade (e.g., from a B to a B- or from a B- to a C+). For each part of a class period missed a student will receive a deduction of half the point value of a full absence. More than three absences will result in a failing grade for the semester. If you are feeling unwell or need to miss a class, inform the instructor ahead of time by email.

Class Participation

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner. In this class, participation includes:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials
- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using only English in class

Special Learning Needs:

If you have a disability or health consideration that requires accommodation, please let me know how I can accommodate you. The sooner you let us know your needs, the better I can assist you in achieving your learning goals in all your courses.

The Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Technology is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately. Students can use electronic technology (laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission.

Recording

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes.

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work or assignment was missing.
- If you cannot find out what class work you have missed, you must talk to your instructors about the missed work and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.

- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment on a date decided by your teacher.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you may lose points for late work based on teacher discretion.
- If you are given a second chance to make up an assignment and you miss the chance, you may receive a “0” for that assignment.

Use of Machine Translation and Other Online Writing and Language Tools

While students are encouraged to use online dictionaries and other language resources, they should not rely on machine translators or other AI tools for large sections of text. If an instructor believes that a project was written or generated using machine translation or AI, the instructor reserves the right to reject the assignment.

SCUPI Honor Code

Students must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This means that students should not get help from anyone or outside sources to do their work without the teacher's permission; nor copy the work of another and present it as their own work. Participating in these activities can result in an F and referral to university officials for academic integrity violations.

Student Responsibility

This syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor. It is the first place you should look for answers to your questions about course requirements, expectations, and policies. By enrolling in this course, you agree to adhere to the requirements, expectations, and policies outlined in this syllabus, including sections on the SCUPI Honor Code. Students who fail to submit their work on time or miss more than 3 classes could receive a failing grade and may not graduate.