Description: A representative survey of the history of film from its beginnings in the late 19th century to the late 20th. Films will be selected to represent major cinematic developments, new genres, and important directors with emphasis on historical context and general significance. The aim of the course is to engender understanding and appreciation of this history as demonstrated by the ability to analyze and articulate its significance.

Text: FLASHBACK: A BRIEF HISTORY OF FILM, Giannetti & Eyman


Week 2(9/2, 9/4): T: Review of “Hugo” and Read Chapter 1, “Beginnings,” (Invention and Early Years of Cinema) for Discussion. R: Introduction and Showing of “Birth of a Nation”


Week 6 (9/30, 10/2): T: Review of film and Read Chapter 7, “European Cinema in the 30s” for Discussion. R: Introduction and Showing of “Citizen Kane”

Week 7(10/7, 10/9): T: Review of film and Read Chapter 8, “American Cinema in the 40s” for Discussion. R: Introduction and Showing of “the Bicycle Thief”

Week 8 (10/14, 10/16): T: Review of film and Read Chapter 9, “European Cinema in the 40s” for Discussion. R: Introduction and Showing of “North by Northwest”


Week 10 (10/28, 10/30): T: Review of film and View scenes from “Tokyo Story;” also Read Chapter 11, “International Cinema in the 50s” R: Intro and Showing of “Bonnie and Clyde”


Week 14 (11/25, 11/27): T: Review of film and Read Chapter 14, “American Cinema in the 70s” for Discussion; R: No Class --Thanksgiving holiday


*Some films may be subject to change.

Objectives: To comprehend the span of film history from its beginnings to the 1980s in terms of its genres, innovations, important directors, and significant films. To understand the historical contexts of these categories and how they were influenced by them. To master cinematic terminology and to demonstrate its use in a term paper focusing on one of our films. To grasp film history as a continuing process, built upon the achievements of the past.

Written Assignments: 1) Quizzes on the readings, class discussions, and films-- every other week, starting with Tuesday of the third week; 2) A term essay of 6-8 printed pages, due Thursday, Nov.13th, topics to be discussed; 3) a final comprehensive exam, Monday, Dec. 8th, 3:20-5:20.

Grades: Final grades will be based on the above assignments and attendance/participation according to the following: Quizzes—30%; Essay—30%; Final Exam—30%; attendance/participation—10%. For discussion classes, you will be expected to have a specific oral comment (based on your own interests) on films and readings. More than two absences and/or excessive tardiness will lower your grade. This course will use the +/- grading system.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious violation of academic integrity. Please review the University’s definition and policy on page 22 of the University Catalog. “Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion.” If you have any doubts about this matter, please consult me.