



**FALL SEMESTER 2012**

**ENGL 2350/S10: *Critical Studies in Film***

**Wednesdays, 4:00-6:50pm in Fir 328**

**Instructor: Greg Chan**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

- ❖ **Phone:** 604-599-2611 (Richmond local) or 604-599-2182 (only during Surrey office hours); Voicemail 9801
- ❖ **Email:** greg.chan@kwantlen.ca
- ❖ **Office Hours:** Mondays, 1:00-2:00pm and Wednesdays, 3:00-4:00pm in **Fir 313** (Surrey); Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:00am in **2480** (Richmond); or by appointment
- ❖ **Course Website:** [www.mykwantlen.ca](http://www.mykwantlen.ca), "My Courses"/ENGL 2350 (forward your kwantlen.net email to your primary mail account to receive course messages)

## REQUIRED TEXT

Giannetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*. 12<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2011.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Are you a film buff who wants to learn more about the artistry behind celluloid images? This course introduces you to the concepts of film form, film aesthetics, and film style, while remaining attentive to the cinema's history and sociopolitical influence. Providing you with a cross-section of genres and film movements, ENGL 2350's cinematic texts include Fleming's *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), Hitchcock's *Vertigo* (1958), Hamilton's *Goldfinger* (1964), Allen's *Annie Hall* (1977), Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (1994), and Hazanavicius's *The Artist* (2011). (Please note that these films will be screened every other Monday in Fir 328 beginning September 10<sup>th</sup>; if you cannot make these optional sessions, you are responsible for viewing the film online or on DVD prior to the lecture on Wednesdays.) To complement this study of film as an art form, course work is divided amongst the following learning modes:

- **Reading** selections from the Giannetti text and film criticism
- **Analyzing** cinematic forms and styles, especially of film auteurs like Alfred Hitchcock and Woody Allen, individually and in groups
- **Composing** film critiques and essay treatments
- **Researching** film history, film genres, and film techniques

## EVALUATION & GRADING SCHEME

Component	Overview	%
<b>Quizzes</b> (various dates: semester-long evaluation)	Designed to test your critical understanding of the assigned readings and the movie-of-the-week, these in-class quizzes will help prepare you for the major essay assignments. They will take on various forms: short answers, paragraph responses, multiple-choice, and group presentations. Please note that missed quizzes cannot be made up; you must be in attendance to earn credit for the quizzes. Keeping up with course readings will ensure you success in this unit.	25
<b>Mise en Scène Analysis Essay</b> (Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> )	This short, in-class essay will have you closely analyzing the visual elements of a select scene from Alfred Hitchcock's <i>Vertigo</i> . Considering how the filmmaker has negotiated space in telling the story, your paper will include a discussion of 5 of the 15 standard elements of mise en scène analysis (refer to Giannetti 86). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Length: 2-3 pages, double-spaced</li> <li>○ Time: 1 hour</li> </ul>	15
<b>Midterm Exam</b> (Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><u>Part A: Film Theory Paragraph (5 marks)</u>            Focusing on a film concept from a short list of choices, you will write a concise paragraph analysis of it within the context of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>, <i>Vertigo</i> or <i>Goldfinger</i> to demonstrate your understanding of it. Length: 1 page, double-spaced.</p> <p><u>Part B: Film Critique (15 marks)</u>            Adopting the voice and writing technique of a film critic, you will be writing a formal review of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>, <i>Vertigo</i> or <i>Goldfinger</i>. Length: 3-4 pages, double-spaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Time: 1 hour, 30 minutes</li> <li>○ Closed book exam, but essay outline is permitted</li> </ul>	20
<b>Research Assignment</b> (Dec 5 <sup>th</sup> )	<p><u>Option A: Research Essay</u>            Based on your cumulative knowledge of film as a form of artistic expression, you will be composing an MLA-style research paper that focuses on one of more of ENGL 2350's core films. Topics and assignment details TBA on October 24<sup>th</sup>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Length: 4-5 pages/1,000-1,250 words, double-spaced</li> <li>○ Preparation time: 6 weeks</li> </ul> <p><u>Option B: Group Research Project</u>            Forming a group no larger than 5 members, you will create a research-based class presentation that concerns one or more of ENGL 2350's films. Topics and assignment details TBA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Length: 8-10 PowerPoint slides + 500 word summary + Works Cited page + 15 minute presentation</li> <li>○ Preparation time: 6 weeks (Sign-up will begin October 24<sup>th</sup>)</li> </ul>	25
<b>Final Exam</b> (Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> )	Fir 328, 3:00-6:00pm. Details TBA.	15

## COURSE POLICIES AND CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

 **Attendance and participation:** Regular, punctual attendance is mandatory for ENGL 2350. It furthers the student's cumulative understanding of course material, enables the student to be actively involved in class discussions, and indicates the student's commitment to the course. Punctuality will not only reflect well on the student, it will also prevent disruptions to class work already underway. Out of respect to your instructor and classmates, latecomers are asked to knock and wait for entrance to the class. In consideration of others, cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices are not to be used during class hours; please turn off or mute ringers before coming to class and refrain from checking or sending messages during class. Respecting these classroom requirements will contribute to a better learning environment for all, so your cooperation is appreciated. Overall, your success in this class is determined by your work ethic; if you treat the classroom as a place of work and study, you will set yourself up for success. As Woody Allen put it, "Eighty percent of success is showing up."

 **Late assignments:** In the interest of fairness to students who work hard to meet deadlines, course work not submitted at the start of class on its due date **automatically receives a grade of zero.** (Computer or printer problems will not be considered reasons for not observing an assignment deadline.) This includes take home as well as in-class work, for which there are no extensions or make-ups. An extenuating circumstance is the only possible exception. If there is a **legitimate and serious** reason why you will not be able to submit your work on time, please inform me of it in advance (a doctor's note or other documentation will usually be required at this point.) Assignments submitted via email, fax, my mailbox, my office, or the assignment drop-box will not be graded; grades for assignments that do not follow format requirements will be withheld and could result in a fail.

 **Plagiarism:** It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with Kwantlen's **Plagiarism and Cheating Policy**, available at [www.kwantlen.ca/counselling/academic/policy\\_summary.html](http://www.kwantlen.ca/counselling/academic/policy_summary.html). Not acknowledging the words and ideas of other writers – including those whose work appears on the Internet – is a form of academic dishonesty.

Work suspected of plagiarism will involve the student meeting with the instructor to discuss it. If it is verified as plagiarized work, it will automatically receive a grade of zero and be recorded by the Registrar in the student's file. Disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from Kwantlen, could result from plagiarized work.

 **Assignment standards: Careful craftsmanship counts.** With that in mind, all course work must meet some standard requirements. Your assignments should always be:

1. Word processed (for all take-home work) and double-spaced
2. Documented MLA style to avoid plagiarism (consult [www.kwantlen.ca/library/guides/citingyourresources.html](http://www.kwantlen.ca/library/guides/citingyourresources.html))
3. Thoroughly proofread for content, structure, and expression
4. Originally titled
5. Submitted with an MLA style information block identifying the student's name, student number, course, section number, instructor, assignment name, and date of submission
6. Stapled

 **Recommended Readings:** To supplement your film studies, the following texts are recommended:

- L. Frank Baum. *The Wizard of Oz*. Henry Regnery, 1956.
- Charles Barr. *Vertigo*. British Film Institute, 2002.
- Phebe Davidson. *Film and Literature: Points of Intersection*. Edwin Mellen Press, 1997.
- Ian Fleming. *Goldfinger*. Curly, 1992.
- Brian McFarlane. *Novel to Film: An Introduction to the Theory of Adaptation*. Oxford University Press, 1996.
- Toby Miller and Robert Stam. *A Companion to Literature and Film*. Blackwell, 2004.

 **Online Resource:** As a companion to Giannetti's *Understanding Movies*, this study site feature learning objectives, practice tests, and weblinks for each major topic in ENGL 2350. Available at <http://www.abfilmstudies.com>.

## GRADING STANDARDS

Letter Grade/ Percentage/GPA	Definition
A+=90 to 100 (4.33)	Exceptional in all respects, this work is characterized by its impeccable presentation, its well-developed ideas, and its engaging style. Controlled and consistent.
A=85 to 89 (4.00)	Outstanding in terms of ideas and presentation, this work is only held back by a few minor errors. Incisive.
A-=80 to 84 (3.67)	A superior effort. Reveals individual, intelligent thought and sophisticated expression of ideas, though it falls short of its full potential. Creative.
B+=76 to 79 (3.33)	A very good achievement, this work is characterized by its strong content, style, and expression. Imaginative and consistent, but lacking the sharpness and individuality of a first-class essay.
B=72 to 75 (3.0)	A good and solid achievement. Despite some difficulties with development and expression, this is a thoughtful piece of work.
B-=68 to 71 (2.67)	Competent work that demonstrates clear understanding of the topic and makes a number of good points. Held back by some significant composition errors.
C+=64 to 67 (2.33)	Reasonably competent work notable for its grasp of assignment guidelines. However, evident errors in organization, development, and grammar interfere with this paper's content.
C=60 to 63 (2.0)	Satisfactory work that fulfills the basic requirements of the assignment. However, it is significantly impaired by errors in development, organization, and grammar.
C-=56 to 59 (1.67)	Marginal performance; shows that the writer has tried to respond to the assignment. This grade and those below it do not permit students to pursue more advanced courses.
D=50 to 55 (1.0)	Minimal achievement. Final grades in this range do not qualify for transfer credit.
F=0 to 49 (0)	Unsatisfactory achievement. This work fails to meet course requirements.

## ENGLISH 2350 SCHEDULE: September to December 2012

This is a tentative outline that we will modify throughout the term according to the needs and interests of the class. Keep it up to date, as topics, readings and due dates are subject to change. The core readings listed below are taken from Giannetti's *Understanding Movies*; there also will be a number of class handouts, all of which can be downloaded from the course website.

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Week I. Sept 5	Course Introduction
Week II. Sept 12	Topics: Realism vs. Formalism; Cinematography Film Focus: Fleming's <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> (1939) Reading: Chapter 1, "Photography"
Week III. Sept 19	Topics: Hollywood's Studio System; Special Effects Film Focus: Fleming's <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> (1939) Reading: Chapter 6, "Acting"  <b>Quiz #1</b>
Week IV. Sept 26	Topics: The Frame & the Vertigo Effect Film Focus: Hitchcock's <i>Vertigo</i> (1958) Reading: Chapter 2, "Mise en Scène"  <b>Mise en Scène Analysis Essay</b>
Week V. Oct 3	Topics: The <i>Doppelgänger</i> Effect, MacGuffins & Costumes Film Focus: Hitchcock's <i>Vertigo</i> (1958) Reading: Chapter 7, "Drama"  <b>Quiz #2</b>
Week VI. Oct 10	Topics: Literary Adaptations & Narratology Film Focus: Hamilton's <i>Goldfinger</i> (1964) Reading: Chapter 8, "Story"
Week VII. Oct 17	Topic: The James Bond 007 Film Franchise Film Focus: Hamilton's <i>Goldfinger</i> (1964) Reading: Chapter 3, "Movement"  <b>Midterm Exam</b>

- Week VIII.  
Oct 24                      Topic: The Dialogue-driven Romantic Comedy  
Film Focus: Allen's *Annie Hall* (1974)  
Reading: Chapter 9, "Writing"
- Week IX.  
Oct 31                      Topic: Film Auteurs  
Film Focus: Allen's *Annie Hall* (1974)  
Reading: Chapter 11, "Critique"  
 **Quiz #3**
- Week X.  
Nov 7                      Topics: Continuity & Cutting  
Film Focus: Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (1994)  
Reading: Chapter 4, "Editing"
- Week XI.  
Nov 14                      Topic: Storyboarding  
Film Focus: Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction* (1994)  
 **Quiz #4**
- Week XII.  
Nov 21                      Topics: Sound Effects & Soundtracks  
Reading: Chapter 5, "Sound"  
Film Focus: Hazanavicius's *The Artist* (2011)
- Week XIII.  
Nov 28                      Topic: Musicals  
Film Focus: Hazanavicius's *The Artist* (2011)  
 **Quiz #5**
- Week XIV.  
Dec 5                      Course Review  
Final Exam Preparation  
 **Research Assignment: Essay or Group Presentation**

 Optional Monday film screenings in Fir 328, 3:00-5:30pm: September 10<sup>th</sup>, *The Wizard of Oz* (1:41); September 24<sup>th</sup>, *Vertigo* (2:08); October 22<sup>nd</sup>, *Annie Hall* (1:33); November 5<sup>th</sup>, *Pulp Fiction* (2:34); and November 19<sup>th</sup>, *The Artist* (1:40). As Oct 8<sup>th</sup> is the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no screening of *Goldfinger*; please watch it on iTunes or rent the DVD.

 **September 11<sup>th</sup>** is the last day to withdraw without receiving a "W" on your transcript; **October 29<sup>th</sup>** is the last day to withdraw from a semester course with a "W" grade.



## ENGLISH MARKING SYMBOLS

### GENERAL

✓	good point
x	no; error
Ⓟ	punctuation error
?	unclear point; logical error
∅	delete
∨	missing part
≡	capitalize

### DICTION/WORD CHOICE

<b>ww</b>	wrong word
<b>w?</b>	word doesn't fit context
<b>wordy</b>	idea expressed in too many words -- simplify
<b>nsw</b>	no such word; consult dictionary
<b>sp</b>	spelling error
<b>typo</b>	typographical error
<b>sl</b>	slang phrase
	combine as one word (e.g. life style)
/	separate as two words (e.g. even/though)

## PHRASING

<b>id</b>	incorrect or faulty idiomatic phrasing
<b>awk</b>	awkward construction
<b>F</b>	filler/deadwood: unnecessary words
<b>red</b>	redundant
<b>rep</b>	repetitive
<b>syn</b>	syntax/faulty word order
	reverse word order

## SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION

[   ]	faulty construction
<b>SS</b>	sentence structure
<b>mm</b>	misplaced modifier
<b>dm</b>	dangling modifier
<b>frag</b>	sentence fragment
<b>CS</b>	comma splice
<b>RO</b>	run-on sentence

## STRUCTURE & STYLE

<b>dev</b>	develop: insufficient explanations/examples
<b>trans</b>	weak or missing transition
→	indent
¶	new paragraph required
<b>POV</b>	wrong point of view/shift in point of view
<b>ds</b>	double space
<b>ts</b>	topic sentence: weak or missing
<b>org</b>	organization problem

## BASIC GRAMMAR

<b>agr</b>	agreement error
<b>art</b>	missing article ( <i>a, an</i> or <i>the</i> )
<b>V</b>	verb form or sequence error
<b>vt</b>	verb tense error
<b>ps</b>	wrong part of speech
<b>u</b>	uncountable noun: remove the 's'
<b>prep</b>	preposition error
<b>sing</b>	singular
<b>pl</b>	plural
<b>Ref?</b>	vague, unclear or incorrect pronoun reference
<b>//</b>	faulty parallelism
<b>coh</b>	coherence

## DOCUMENTATION

<b>Q</b>	quotation error: faulty integration or wrong format
<b>doc/man</b>	manuscript form: does not follow MLA conventions/faulty documentation/missing source
<b>WC</b>	Works Cited error
<b>alph</b>	alphabetical order
<b>it</b>	italics

### Grammar Resources:

[http://www.kwantlen.bc.ca/learningcentres/eal\\_resources.html#grammar](http://www.kwantlen.bc.ca/learningcentres/eal_resources.html#grammar)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/>

[www.writingcentre.ubc.ca/workshop/toolbox.htm](http://www.writingcentre.ubc.ca/workshop/toolbox.htm)

[www.lib.sfu.ca/researchhelp/writing](http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchhelp/writing)