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**NORTHEAST IOWA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

*Northeast Iowa Community College provides in-demand education and training focused on improving lives, driving business success and advancing community vitality.*

## **DRA 112 84101 American Film**

**Fall 2021**

**Delivery Method:**

- Online

**Meet Days/Times/Location:**

- Online; ONL

**Start and End Dates:**

- 8/24/2021 - 12/13/2021

**Academic Department:** Liberal Arts, Science and Business

## **Required Materials**

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**No textbook required. All course materials are embedded directly into Brightspace**

## **Course Information**

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**Course Description:** This course explores the full impact of Hollywood filmmaking as an art form, economic force, and cultural indicator. It explores the deeper meaning of American movies-the hidden

messages of genres, the social and psychological effects of Hollywood film style, and the mutual influence of society and popular culture. Students will engage in textual analysis and comparative analysis, utilizing film excerpts and entire movies as tools, and supporting their ideas with research. The course includes analysis of theme, symbolism, historical and cultural context, and cinematic elements such as cinematography, visual and sound design, and directing.

**Major Course Objective:**

Students will analyze American films from a variety of decades and genres.

**Primary Common Learning Outcome Assessed:** Critical Thinking

**Educational Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will be able to examine the narrative elements common to Hollywood films.
- Students will be able to explain the major trends and turning points in the evolution of American cinema.
- Students will be able to analyze the cinematic and literary elements that characterize the film form.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast films within and across genres/subgenres.

**Prerequisite(s):** A minimum grade of C- in ENG 105 or an equivalent composition course at another college or university with a minimum grade of C-

## Grading Procedures and Scale

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Grade	Grading Scale by Percent of Total Points	Grading Scale by Points
	Ex. (94 - 100%)	Ex. (940 - 1000+)
A	93 - 100	740 - 800
A-	90 - 92	720 - 739
B+	87 - 89	695 - 719
B	83 - 86	660 - 694
B-	80 - 82	640 - 659
C+	77 - 79	615 - 639
C	73 - 76	580 - 614

C- (or P)	70 - 72	560 - 578
D+	67 - 69	535 - 559
D	63 - 66	505 - 534
D-	60 - 62	480 - 504
F (or NP)	0 - 59	0 - 479

	# of Assignments	Points / Percentage
<b>Film Discussions</b>	14 X 30 and 2 X 50	520
<b>Module Quizzes</b>	6 X 20 and 1 X 30 and 1 X 50	100
<b>Additional Activities</b>	5 @ various points	80
<b>Total Points possible</b>		800

**Final:** The final date and time will be announced later in the semester. Faculty members may choose to give an exam or incorporate a project/presentation as a final. If a final exam is not given, class is still held at the scheduled final exam time to complete the required goals and objectives of the course and meet the scheduled required hours.

## Course Calendar

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The course calendar is a guide for activities and subject to change at faculty discretion.

### MODULE 1

#### Week 1 - Monday, August 23 - Sunday, August 29

- Assignment: Syllabus Activity
- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 1, "A Brief History of Cinema"
- Watch: American Cinema, 12, "Thinking and Writing and Film"
- Watch: Casablanca
- Discussion: Week 1

*Week 1 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.2*

#### Week 2 - Monday, August 30 - Sunday, September 5

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 2, “How to Watch a Movie”
- Watch: American Cinema, 2, “The Studio System”
- Watch: Citizen Kane
- Discussion: Week 2
- Quiz: Module 1 – Week 1 & 2

*Week 2 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.3*

## **MODULE 2**

### **Week 3 - Monday, September 6 – Sunday, September 12**

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 3, “Mise-en-scene”
- Watch: Sunset Boulevard
- Discussion: Week 3

*Week 3 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1*

### **Week 4 - Monday, September 13 - Sunday, September 19**

- Watch: American Cinema, 8, “Film in the Age of TV”
- Watch: Bonnie and Clyde
- Discussion: Week 4
- Quiz: Module 2 – Week 3 & 4

*Week 4 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.2*

## **MODULE 3**

### **Week 5 - Monday, September 20 - Sunday, September 26**

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 4, “Narrative”
- Watch: Harold and Maude
- Discussion: Week 5

*Week 5 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1*

### **Week 6 - Monday, September 27 - Sunday, October 3**

- Watch: American Cinema, 1, “The Hollywood Style”
- Watch: American Beauty
- Discussion: Week 6

- Quiz: Module 3 – Week 5 & 6

*Week 6 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1*

## **MODULE 4**

### **Week 7 - Monday, October 4 - Sunday, October 10**

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 5, “Cinematography”
- Watch: The Truman Show
- Discussion: Week 7

*Week 7 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1, 8.3*

### **Week 8 - Monday, October 11 - Sunday, October 17**

- Watch: American Cinema, 9, “The Film School Generation”
- Watch: Taxi Driver
- Discussion: Week 8
- Quiz: Module 4 – Week 7 & 8

*Week 8 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.2, 8.3*

## **MODULE 5**

### **Week 9 - Monday, October 18 - Sunday, October 24**

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 6, “Editing”
- Watch: Do the Right Thing
- Discussion: Week 9

*Week 9 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1, 8.3*

### **Week 10 - Monday, October 25 - Sunday, October 31**

- Watch: American Cinema, 11, “The Director’s Choice”
- Watch: Moonrise Kingdom
- Discussion: Week 10
- Quiz: Module 5 – Week 9 & 10

*Week 10 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.3*

## **MODULE 6**

### **Week 11 - Monday, November 1 - Sunday, November 7**

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 7 “Sound”
- Watch: Nashville
- Discussion: Week 11

*Week 11 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1, 8.3*

### **Week 12 - Monday, November 8 - Sunday, November 14**

- Watch: American Cinema, 10, “The Edge of Hollywood”
- Watch: Smoke Signals
- Discussion: Week 12
- Quiz: Module 6 – Week 11 & 12

*Week 12 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.2, 8.4*

## **MODULE 7**

### **Week 13 - Monday, November 15 - Sunday, November 21**

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 8, “Acting”
- Watch: The Piano
- Discussion: Week 13

*Week 13 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1, 8.3*

### **Week 14 - Monday, November 22 - Sunday, November 28**

- Watch: American Cinema, 3, “The Star”
- Watch: Crash
- Discussion: Week 14
- Quiz: Module 7 – Week 13 & 14

*Week 14 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives: 8.1, 8.2, 8.3*

## **MODULE 8**

### **Week 15 - Monday, November 29 - Sunday, December 5**

- Read: Film: A Critical Introduction, chapter 13 “Genres”
- Watch genre video(s) that corresponds with the chosen film (linked in Brightspace)

- Watch: Choose 1 film from the genre movie list
- Discussion: Week 15

*Week 15 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4*

### **Week 16 & 17 - Monday, December 6 - Sunday, December 16**

- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 9, "Women in Cinema"
- Read: Moving Pictures, chapter 10, "African Americans in Cinema"
- Watch: Choose a 2nd genre film from the movie genre list
- Discussion: Week 16
- Quiz: Module 8 – Final Quiz

*Week 16/17 activities and assignments are associated with course objectives 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4*

**All assignments and activities support the Program Learning Outcome (PLO) of General Education.**

**All Assignments and activities support the Common Learning Outcome (CLO) of Critical Thinking.**

## **Student Course Feedback**

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Prior to course completion you will receive an email providing a link to share your feedback. You are EXPECTED to complete the feedback form for each class.

## **Assessment**

Northeast Iowa Community College is an institution dedicated to continuous instructional improvement as part of our assessment efforts. It is necessary for us to collect and analyze course level data. Data drawn from student work for the purposes of institutional assessment will be posted in aggregate and will not identify individual students. Your continued support in our ongoing effort to provide quality instructional services at NICC is appreciated.

## **College Policies**

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### **Attendance/Academic Engagement**

(See College Handbook for more details) Regular attendance is expected. A strong relationship exists between success in college and class attendance. Absence in class interferes with the learning

process and may lead to academic failure. Students should confer with the instructor immediately following an absence. When there is advance knowledge of an absence, students should discuss this with the instructor prior to the absence.

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the commitment to and demonstration of honesty, ethics, and taking personal responsibility for your work in an academic setting. Academic integrity includes honesty, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity requires student's work to be the product of their own thought and effort, and to ensure that the intellectual contribution of others is properly documented. Academic integrity applies to all academic activities, including, but not limited to, classwork, labs, clinical field, practicum or co-op assignments. Examples of violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, lying, falsifying data, and aiding dishonesty. Violations of academic integrity are addressed according to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#), and sanctions may include, but not be limited to, warnings (either verbal or written), grade reduction for an assignment, project or test, or a failing grade for the course. Sanctions for violations of academic integrity for a course shall be determined by the faculty member for the course. Pursuant to the Student Conduct Code, egregious or repeated violations of the academic integrity policy may result in the suspension or expulsion from a class or from the College, as determined by the College.

## Class Continuation during Campus or Center Closing

Instructional continuity is critical to the College mission and to your success in this class. As such, should a campus or center close due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, please check your Brightspace class for specific instructions and expectations from your instructor due to the campus closure.

Classes will not be canceled, and students will be expected to continue to engage in this class remotely until such a time as classes can return to normal.

For notification on campus closures, please refer to the following:

<https://www.nicc.edu/about/consumer-information/emergency-response-and-procedure/>

## Campus Emergencies



In the event of a campus emergency, an alarm will sound or an appropriate announcement will be made. An emergency response guide, building evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas are posted in each room. Safety drills are held on a regular basis. For more information, visit campus emergencies in the college catalog.

## Course Section Policies

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### Absence/Illness

Regular attendance is expected. A strong relationship exists between success in college and class attendance. Absence in class interferes with the learning process and may lead to academic failure. When there is advance knowledge of an absence, students should discuss this with the instructor prior to the absence.

You are expected to fully participate in class. You fully participate when you:

- login to this course in Brightspace a minimum of two times per week.
- complete the assigned readings, video viewings, and activities before the due dates.
- read and follow instructions carefully. (This will be demonstrated by reducing the number of questions that are already answered in the instructions, such as due dates and other assignment requirements).
- actively engage in discussion forums, applying both critical thinking and respect.
- bring a positive attitude and a willingness to learn.

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

### Academic Integrity Violations

As a student of NICC you are expected to maintain academic honesty and integrity. Violations of the academic misconduct policy include, but are not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation. More information about cheating and dishonesty can be found in the NICC College Catalog ([www.nicc.edu/catalog](http://www.nicc.edu/catalog)). A. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the work of someone else as if it were his or her own, new, and original effort. Self-plagiarism or recycle fraud is a special form of plagiarism in which a student submits an assignment as original work, but it was previously

submitted in a different section or a different course. Additional examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using or copying text from a source without citing the source, and/or using quotation marks
- Paraphrasing information without citing the original source
- Using an idea from a resource without properly citing the source
- Recycling previously submitted speeches, essays, or assignments from your other classes or semesters
- Submitting another student's speech or essay
- Paying a person or business to write your speech or essay
- Downloading a speech or essay (wholly or partially) from the Internet to submit as your own

B. Cheating is any behavior that involves dishonest or deceitful actions. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Using unauthorized materials during an assessment
- Copying assignments from another student
- Discussing quiz/exam questions and answers with other students
- Purposefully allowing another student to copy your work and submit that work as their own
- Submitting a paper or assignment for which so much help has been received that the writing is significantly different from your own

**CONSEQUENCES:** Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses because they are unethical. Students who plagiarize or cheat will receive 0 points for the assignment. Students who have plagiarized or cheated will not have an opportunity to redo the assignment. Please note that a speech or essay receiving 0 points may mean the student will be encouraged to withdraw from the class.

## Late Work

Late work will not be accepted in this course. If you fail to contribute to a discussion forum or submit a quiz or assignment before the due date, you will receive 0 points. In some exceptional cases, prior approval may be granted for requests for an alternative due date; you should communicate with the instructor as soon as possible if an extenuating circumstance will prevent you from meeting a deadline.

## Missing Assignments

See the "Late Work" policy above.

## Makeup Testing

See the "Late Work" policy above.

## Use of Technology

**Brightspace Classroom Management:** The classroom management platform called Brightspace will be used extensively in this course. It is in your best interest to follow the instructor's advice at the beginning of the semester to explore the course page and to become familiar with the organization of materials since each instructor uses Brightspace differently.

**Technology Requirements:** Use Microsoft Word or PDF when submitting all work to Brightspace Assignments dropbox. NOTE: If you use a Mac product, Brightspace cannot read the software called Pages.

If your computer does not have Microsoft Word, you can download a free copy from the NICC Bookstore's Webpage. A link is included in the "Resources to Support Your Success" sub-module.

Because this is a fully online course, students need a functioning computer with consistent access to high speed internet. Because this class requires the viewing of films, if you choose to view them on your electronic device, you may need to install the Microsoft Silverlight plug-in on your computer. A link to the plug-in can be found in the "Accessing Reading and Viewing Materials" sub-module.

- NOTE: In most cases, problems with internet access or technical issues will not be accepted as excuses for missing a deadline, so be sure to plan ahead as much as possible.

Instructor Feedback for Students will be accessible through the "Grades" tab in Brightspace. It is important for you to read this feedback as it is intended to support your learning and to provide advice to help you make positive progress in meeting the course objectives.

- REMINDER: You may visit or call the NICC Technology Help Desk to request assistance with technology issues. If your computer or electronic device cannot support Microsoft Word or the class media files, you may need to adjust your schedule so that you can use one of the many campus computer labs to complete and submit your work. Additionally, most towns have a public library with computers that already use Microsoft Office programs; you should be able to use these computers upon request.

## Classroom Conduct

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As a student in this course (and at this College) you are expected to maintain a high degree of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class; and also integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom in which the rights, dignity, worth, and freedom of all members of the class are respected. Please refer to the [College Catalog](#) for detailed information on the [Student Conduct Code](#).

## Additional Information

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### Learning Center

The NICC Learning Centers provide tutoring assistance free of charge to any student in person Monday through Friday or virtually online with our online tutoring service 24/7 with [Upswing](#). Students are encouraged to utilize the Learning Centers in Calmar, Peosta or Dubuque.

### Access

Take advantage of the *ReadSpeaker Listen Button* to enhance understanding and comprehension of the materials in this and any syllabus within the content area. All of the materials posted in the content area of NICC Brightspace classrooms have a *Listen Button* to have the text highlighted and read for you. Listening to text read aloud is shown to improve reading comprehension.

[www.nicc.edu/readspeaker](http://www.nicc.edu/readspeaker)

### ReadSpeaker for Brightspace by D2L



### Course Copyright

All course materials students receive or to which students have online access are protected by copyright laws. Students may use course materials and make copies for their own use as needed, but unauthorized distribution and/or uploading of materials without the instructor's express written permission is strictly prohibited. Students who engage in the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials may be held in violation of the College's Code of Conduct, and/or liable under Federal and State laws.

### Netiquette

The term "Netiquette" refers to the etiquette guidelines for electronic communications, such as e-mail and bulletin board postings. Netiquette covers not only rules to maintain civility in discussions, but also special guidelines unique to the electronic nature of forum messages.

## Accommodation Policy

In accordance with the Americans with Disability Act, NICC ensures the accessibility of its programs, classes, and services to students with disabilities. For any questions or to apply for disability services please contact the Accessibility Services Office to set up an appointment, or visit the Accessibility Services website at: <https://www.nicc.edu/academic-support/disability-services/accommodations/> for additional information. Any student eligible for and needing academic accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with their instructor.

Sally Mallam, M.S.

Director of Accessibility Services

844.642.2338 ext. 1258

[mallams@nicc.edu](mailto:mallams@nicc.edu)

## Statement of Non-Discrimination

It is the policy of Northeast Iowa Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age (employment), sexual orientation, gender identity, creed, religion, and actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by federal and state civil rights regulations. If you have questions, concerns or to read the full policy at: <https://www.nicc.edu/aboutnicc/nondiscriminationpolicy/>.

## Title IX: Confidentiality and Responsible Employee Statement

Northeast Iowa Community College faculty are committed to helping create a safe and open learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. The College strongly encourages all members of the community to take action, seek support and report incidents of sexual misconduct to the Title IX Office. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, I am required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact one of NICC's Counselors (Calmar Campus 844.642.2338, ext. 1378 / Peosta Campus 844.642.2338, ext. 2215). For more information about reporting options and resources visit [Sexual Respect and Title IX](#).

## Disclaimer

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This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check the Learning Management System (Currently Brightspace) for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted by your instructor or listed in the course announcements or through NICC email.