



**Nanchang University**  
**ART13: The Art of Film**  
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

**Credit: 6**

***Contact Hours***

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours)at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

***Course Description***

You already know how to watch movies. You already watch them in a variety of contexts: in the theatre, with family, with friends, on the TV and on the computer. This class offers a different contest. During the course of Introduction to Film, we will be learning new ways of understanding, analyzing and appreciating movies. Through examining film history, technical terminology, major films, and different approaches to studying the movies, we will begin to build a strong basis and vocabulary for thinking about film.

Upon the completion of the course, students will:

- 1) Demonstrate familiarity and facility with fundamental terminology and concepts in the study of global cinema.
- 2) Demonstrate understanding of the methods used by scholars in the study of global cinema.
- 3) Demonstrate critical thinking in the evaluation of approaches and techniques in the study of global cinema.
- 4) Describe how language use is related to ways of thinking, cultural heritage, and cultural values in the area of global cinema.

*Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.*

***Required Textbook***

Richard Barsam, Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film, 2nd Ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 2007.



## ***Grading***

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| •Participation | 20% |
| •Paper         | 30% |
| •Midterm       | 20% |
| •Final Exam    | 30% |

| Letter Grade     | Grade Points |
|------------------|--------------|
| High Distinction | 85-100       |
| Distinction      | 75-84        |
| Credit           | 65-74        |
| Pass             | 50-64        |
| Fail             | 0-49         |

## ***Course Schedule***

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

Class 1:

Introduction: What does it mean to take a film class?

Class 2:

Wizard of Oz (Victor Fleming, 1933) 103 Minutes & discussion

Class 3:

History and Groundwork: What can early cinema, and early cinematic movements show us?  
Chapter 1 "What is a Movie?"

Class 4:

Plot, Story, and Time: How do all the bits become a movie?

Class 5:

Silence of the Lambs (Jonathan Demme, 1991) 118 minutes

Class 6:

Discussion of Silence of the Lamb  
Chapter 2 "Form and Narrative."

Class 7:

Day Documentary and Experimental Film: Truth, Reality, Politics, and Entertainment



Class 8:

Harlan County, USA (Barbara, Kopple, 1976) 104 minute

Discussion of Harlan County (Cont.)

Class 9:

Midterm

Class 10:

Genre: I Know it When I See It... or Do I?

Class 11:

Blade Runner (Ridley Scott, 1982) 117 minutes

Class 12:

Chapter 8 "Writing about Movies"

Class 13:

Rick Altman, "A Semantic Syntactic Approach to Film Genre." (1 page paper proposal due)

Class 14:

Acting, Stars, and Performance: What's the difference? first part of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Milos Forman, 1975) 134 minutes

Class 15:

Continuation of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, discussion  
Chapter 5, "Acting."

Class 16:

Cinematography: How We Feel What We See

Class 17:

Chapter 4: "Cinematography"

Class 18:

In the Mood for Love (Wong Kar Wai, 2000) 98 minutes, and discussion

Class 19:

Film Sound: I'll Believe It When I Hear It and Chapter 7, "Sound"

Class 20:

Delicatessen (Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 1991) 100 minutes

Class 21:

Combination, Juxtapositions, and Continuity: The Fine Art of Editing, Chapter 6, "Editing"



**Class 22:**

The Auteur: Who Creates the Movies We Love? Star of: North by Northwest (Alfred Hitchcock, 1959) 136 minutes

**Class 23:**

Continuation of North by Northwest, and discussion of some major film movements:

What do they mean when they say the French New Wave/Italian Neorealism/Classic Hollywood/Direct Cinema/Indie Film...?

**Class 24:**

Continuation of North by Northwest, and discussion of some major film movements:

What do they mean when they say the French New Wave/Italian Neorealism/Classic Hollywood/Direct Cinema/Indie Film...? (Paper due)

### ***Attending Policy***

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

### ***Policy on "Late Withdrawals"***

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

### ***General Expectations:***

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading;
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;



— While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

### ***Special Needs or Assistance***

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.