

**KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

*2001 Oriental Boulevard  
Brooklyn, New York 11235*

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS & PERFORMING ARTS

SPEECH ARTS & SCIENCES  
THEATRE ARTS  
RADIO MANAGEMENT & TECHNOLOGY  
FILM STUDIES  
MUSIC & MUSIC TECHNOLOGY  
TELEVISION

**SYLLABUS**

Course Title: Film: The Creative Medium  
Number: MCF 40

Credits/Hours: 3 credits/3 hours

Description: An exploration of film with intention to awaken in the students an awareness of this media as a creative force. The historical, social, psychological and aesthetic aspects of film will be studied.

Textbooks: **Looking at Movies, 5th Edition**  
Barsam, Richard, and Dave Monahan: ISBN: 978-0-393-26519-4 W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. 2015. Print. eBook.

Prerequisite(s): None

Majors: No

Selected Students: No

Rationale:

In the area of mass communications film is the most powerful of all the media. "The first and foremost of all story tellers, film leads us, hooks us immediately." The film story is not haphazardly told but meticulously controlled from beginning to end. It is because of this discipline of artistic control that film is being employed by a great range of business and educational facilities. This indicates a growing market of employment for the

student of filmic studies.

## Flexible Core: Creative Expression (Group C)

### Course Objectives:

1. To develop an awareness of the scope of film and be able to explain what is meant by cinematic language.
2. To write an essay ~~clarify~~ clarifying the manner in which film has used its various aspects to create an integral art form.
3. To determine and discuss the particular effectiveness of film as a cultural and social force.
4. To study the individual aspects of film in the context of its own form including story and plot, mise-en-scene, acting, cinematography, editing, and sound.
5. (As per Topical Course Outline item XI) To develop understanding behind the Filmmaking Technologies and Production Systems employed in major motion pictures and episodic television
6. (As per Topical Course Outline item X) To develop an appreciation and understanding of film history as it pertains to milestones in film technologies and development in storytelling around the world.

### Methods of Teaching Course:

Films will be shown to highlight the particular filmic aspect followed by group discussion. Students will be shown video interviews with filmmakers and behind the scenes videos focusing on the technique and craft of filmmaking.

### Assignments for Students:

Students will be involved in the group discussions which will follow each viewing. Essays will be required of each student. These essays will be decided upon by both the student and the instructor.

### Method of Evaluation:

Midterm  
Classroom discussion  
~~Projects~~ Essay  
Final exam

### Topical Course Outline:

- I. Looking at Movies
- II. Principles of Film Form
- III. Types of Movies
- IV. Elements of Narrative
- V. Mise-en-Scene
- VI. Cinematography
- VII. Acting
- VIII. Editing
- IX. Film History

## X. Filmmaking Technologies and Production Systems

### Bibliography:

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- Kauffman, S.(1967). *A world on film*. New York: Delta Books.
- Kinder,M. & B. Houston (1972). *Close - up*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc.
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- Kracauer, S.(1979). *Theory of film*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lacey, R. A. (1972). *Seeing with feeling*. Philadelphia, PA: W. B. Saunders Co.
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- Lipton, L. (1972). *Independent film making*. San Francisco, CA: Straight Arrow Books.
- MacGowan, K. (1965). *Behind the scene*. New York: Delta Books.
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