Course Objectives:

- To watch and critically discuss films from a variety of film genres and styles
- To learn introductory techniques of film analysis and interpretation
- To discuss and write about different ways of telling a story in film and in words
- To become better appreciators of films you see for pleasure and more aware of the differences, similarities, and relationships between literature and film
  *To improve writing and critical thinking skills by using your growing understanding of both literature and film and your increasing ability to state the cinematic qualities of language and images.


Course Requirements:

Five or six in-class writing assignments ideally given on Friday of the week, or on the last day of each of the five units comparing a movie with the written, verbal work that is its source. These in-class writing exercises are very important to your final grade and will ask you to compare/contrast images with words or have you discuss how a short story or a cartoon has been selectively adapted into a movie. After watching each film in the class we will carefully read the short story that is its origin. Then we will have a short, detailed oral quiz on the content of these words. These five quizzes are also very important to this class and your grade. In order to talk about the differences between film and literature, we must be careful to observe the details of the narrative that is a movie’s source. A final exam, incorporating some elements of these in-class writing exercises, will be given during the university’s assigned examination schedule for this class.

Temperamental requirements for achieving success in Film and Literature

- Not necessarily a love of the movies, but an interest in and curiosity about them.
- Some questioning of how movies tell stories through images and how literature generates narratives in words, language, and verbal meaning; and the considerable differences in these two techniques.
- A willingness to study carefully at least three texts in this course: the movies you watch in and out of class; the short stories—and words—that are these films’ original, sometimes amazingly different source; and, for those of you who want to pursue these readings, a film textbook which analyzes many types of movies technically, mechanically, sometimes geometrically.
- A determination to watch, observe, and view the movies in this course repeatedly, sequentially, and persistently until you find your own visions of what you think a director and his squadron of technicians are attempting to achieve, trying to convey in a film.
THIS IS A COMMON CORE CLASS WHICH MEEETS REGULARLY FOR FIFTY MINUTES THREE TIMES A WEEK, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND FRIDAY. I CANNOT BEGIN TO CONVEY TO YOU HOW ESSENTIAL IT IS FOR EACH OF YOU TO APPEAR, IN COOPERATIVE SPIRIT, AT EACH AND EVERY MEETING OF THIS CLASS. I TAKE THE ROLL RELIGIOUSLY, AND IF YOU MISS MORE THAN FIVE (5) OF THESE CLASSES, I WILL DROP YOU FROM THIS COURSE WITH A WF. A GOOD ATTITUDE, AN OPENNESS TO THE FAR-FETCHED THINGS I WILL SAY ABOUT THESE MOVIES, AND A DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE, IN SOME WAY, IN THIS DIALOGUE AND CONVERATION MAY NOT GET YOU THE PERFECT FINAL GRADE YOU WANT. BUT WITHOUT THESE QUALITIES, I CAN GUARANTEE THAT YOU ARE MAKING YOUR PATH TO GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT IN THIS CLASS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT. PRETEND THAT YOUR ARE AN INTERESTED, ENGAGED STUDENT AND YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF BECOMING ONE.
Weeks 1 & 2
John Ford, *Stagecoach* (1939)
*Stagecoach*; Louis Giannetti, Chapter One, *Photography*, pp. 9-43.
First Friday writing Assignment

Weeks 3, 4, & 5
Ang Lee, *Brokeback Mountain*
Annie Proulx, "Brokeback Mountain," handout
Second Friday Writing Assignment

Weeks 6 & 7
Giannetti, Chapter Three, *Movement*, 93-130.
Third Writing Assignment

Weeks 8, 9 & 10
Mid-semester examination
Raymond Carver, “So Much Water so Close to Home,” handout
Fourth Friday Writing Assignment

Weeks 11 & 12
Fifth Writing Assignment

Weeks 13 & 14
Akira Kurosawa, *Rashomon* (1951)
Ryunosuke Akutagawa, “In a Grove,” in *Adaptations*, pp. 533-539.
Sixth Writing Assignment

FINAL EXAMINATION—FIFTEENTH WEEK OF CLASSES