Text: *Film Art: An Introduction* (Bordwell and Thompson, 6th edition)

**Course Description:** The purpose of HU 2324 is to broaden your knowledge and critical understanding of film by studying its history, technical development, structure, and cultural contexts and meanings. To accomplish these goals the class has been organized around five activities.

**Screenings:** Each Monday we will screen a different film related to the theme for the term. Prior to the screening I will present background material on the film’s historical and social context, director, actors, cinematic techniques, etc. in order to better prepare you to watch and think about the film. We may also use part of this time to continue our discussion of the previous week’s film. You are strongly advised to take brief notes during this introduction as well as during the film. (Lighting will be kept at a suitable level.) **Attendance at Monday’s screenings is required.** If you must be absent because of a serious illness, plant trip, or job interview, please contact me immediately so that we can make other arrangements for you.

**Readings:** Each week you should come to Monday’s class having read the assigned chapter of *Film Art*. Reading the chapter in advance of the week’s screening will help you get more out of the film, prepare you for doing the written responses, and facilitate our discussion.

**Mid-term Exam:** On Wednesday of week 7 or 8 there will be an in-class short-answer exam on the concepts and technical terms covered thus far in the text and in class.

**Writing Assignments:** On Mondays before the screening I will give you a specific topic or question to prepare to write on informally and/or discuss in Wednesday’s class. These questions will often take a concept or technique introduced in the text or in class and ask you to reflect on its use in the film we will see that week.

Twice during the term you will write typed, double-spaced 2-3 page responses outside of class. (See syllabus for due dates.) These responses should be focused, concise discussions using specific examples from the film. **Late papers will be subject to a grade reduction.** At the end of the term I will distribute the
topics for a third, longer take home writing assignment, which will be due
Monday of finals week.

Group Presentations: Each Wednesday beginning week three or four, a group
of 3-4 students will give an informal 25-30 minute presentation on the film
screened during the previous Monday's class period. Although presentations
have no rigid format, they should address dimensions of the film the group feels
are particularly important, such as narrative structure, themes and motifs, mise-
en-scene, cinematography, editing, sound, etc. Groups are strongly encouraged
to focus at least part of their presentation on a particular scene from the film that
is 3-5 minutes in length. Presentations should conclude with 1-3 questions or
topics for general class discussion.

Each member of the group should plan to speak for approximately 5 minutes. I
will meet with each group in the last 15 minutes of class on Monday prior to their
scheduled Wednesday presentation.

Discussion and Participation: Although Monday's class meeting will be
primarily devoted to the introduction and screening of the week's film, your
comments and questions are encouraged. Wednesday classes will be devoted to
large and small group discussion. Participation, both yours and mine, is crucial
to a productive classroom experience. Consistent, active participation will
contribute positively, and lack of participation negatively, to your final grade in
the class.

Evaluation:

Formal topic responses (2): 40%
Midterm exam: 15%
Group presentation: 15%
Final writing assignment: 20%
Participation (including in-class writing): 10%

A  = 93-100%  C  = 73-77%
AB = 88-92%     CD = 68-72%
B  = 83-87%     D  = 60-67%
BC = 78-82%     F  = 0-59%

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services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, (2212). For
other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head,
or the Affirmative Action Office (3310).