In this course, we will look closely at the art of telling stories on film, considering narrative form, film style, film genre, and different approaches to understanding not just how a story is told, but what it might mean as well. Often people worry that analyzing movies takes the fun out of them. Through this course, I hope you will discover that understanding how movies work can give you tools to problem solve, think critically, and—if you’ve got the inclination—make much better movies yourself.

Required Texts

The films

Major Assignments and Other Responsibilities

Attendance

Come to class and the screenings. To meet the requirements of the class, you must be present. You have three absences to use for illness or unexpected emergencies. **If you miss more than three classes, your final grade will be decreased by 1/2 grade per absence.** You are responsible for any material covered or due on the date you missed.

Film Screenings: **Screenings are an important part of your class homework.** You are watching
them to learn, which will require a different kind of attention than watching for entertainment. I encourage you to take notes during the screening and, frequently, there will be a quiz following the screening. These quizzes cannot be made up unless you have arranged it with me prior to the class meeting. Film screening days are also class days. Plan on being in class the whole time.
Assignments and Grade Distribution

Important Note: Each project will have subsidiary due dates for conferences, drafts and revision. **Late work will not be accepted** unless arrangements have been made prior to due date. The calendar on the course website will contain specific information about assignments, activities and other deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class Participation and Short Assignments</strong></td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get a good class participation grade:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Come to class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings as assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take good notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ask questions when you don’t understand something</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stay on task when you’ve got in-class work to do</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talk when you have things to say, but make sure others get to talk, too</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listen when I’m talking or others are talking</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DON’T</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talk during the films</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multitask the class (i.e., text, answer your cellphone or work on your laptop, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shooting-to-Edit Project (Group)</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You and your group will write, storyboard, shoot and edit a (very) short film with an eye to better understanding the role of continuity editing in filmmaking.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northern Lights Film Festival (March 31 - April 2)</strong> (Individual response papers)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend and write response papers to events at the Northern Lights Film Festival in the McArdle Theatre.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**HDMZ (Humanities Digital Media Zone)**

While you are enrolled in this course, you have 24/7 swipe access to the HDMZ, the computing and resource
facility across the hall from your classroom. During the semester, we will be using the HDMZ for project work and you will also be able to check out equipment and films for particular assignments from the consultants at the main desk. Consultant hours are online at http://hdmz.hu.mtu.edu
University Policies

Academic Integrity
Please review the university policy on academic integrity. It can be found at: http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html

If you are ever in doubt about intellectual property or whether or not something would be considered plagiarism, please ask before you turn your work in.

Americans with Disabilities Act
If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education and services at MTU, please call Dean of Students Gloria Melton at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head/chair, or the Affirmative Action Office at 487-3310.

For more information, visit: http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability

Affirmative Action
http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aae/

Equal Opportunity Statement
### Slightly Revised Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 3/14 | Film Projects begin  
Concept / Character Ideas |
| 3/16 | Story Outline Due at end of class |
| 3/21 | Storyboards Due at end of class (group) |
| 3/23 | Shooting Begins (group) |
| 3/28 | M/W classes canceled for shooting and festival.  
Film festival schedule online at:  
http://director.hu.mtu.edu/northernlights |
| 3/30 | All shooting must be completed by Monday 4/4  
Editing Begins (group) |
| 4/4  | Editing |
| 4/18 | NLFF papers due / Editing |
| 4/20 | DVD Commentary |
| Final | TBA | Final Short Film Screening |

**HU2324 — Spring 2011**  
**Short Film Project Groups**

**Group 1**  
Beau  
Dominic  
Brad N.  
Mark E.  
Mike

**Group 2**  
Lucas  
Stephen  
Scott  
Jake

**Group 3**  
Zane  
Paul  
Grant  
Brad J.  
Justin

**Group 4**  
Ben D  
Billy  
Frank  
Zach
Group 5
Ian
David
Marcus
Adam

Group 6
Haley
Nate
John B.
Dawn

Group 7
Hana
Megan
Josh
Dave L.

Group 8
Jon
Jennifer
Matt
Dan
Kristyna