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### EIU 4192G-099: Film and Contemporary Society Honors

Bobby Martinez

*Eastern Illinois University*

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**EIU 4192G, section 099:  
EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society  
Fall 2021 | Coleman 3290 | Tuesdays 3.30 PM-6.50 PM**

**Instructor:** Dr. Bobby Martínez

**Office:** Coleman 3371

**E-mail:** rlmartinez@eiu.edu

**Virtual Zoom Office Hours:** Mondays, 12 NOON-2 PM; Wednesdays, 12 NOON-2.30 PM; Thursdays, 2.30 PM-3.30 PM; & by APPOINTMENT.

**Class Websites:** D2L course page **and** [www.martinezliteraria.com/eiu4192](http://www.martinezliteraria.com/eiu4192)

**Course Description:**

EIU 4192G-099 (4-0-4, FS) is an EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society. In this course, we will study some of the theory, aesthetics, history, and cultural contexts of film, concentrating on the relationships among film, literature, popular culture, music, and the arts. Students will explore the ways in which we read film and culture from around the world, and the ways in which we write about film. The spring 2018 iteration of this seminar will emphasize how cinema from around the world asks us to think critically about central problems facing contemporary society, such as the problem of evil and violence, the ethical quandaries facing us during times of war or conflict, our complicated relationship with technology, and philosophical meditations about love, gender, and life in modern cities. This course is writing intensive and not open to English majors. (Note: This EIU Honors Senior Seminar requires student completion of at least 75 semester hours and does not fulfill the English Junior Seminar required of English majors.)

**Course Learning Objectives:**

- Students will exercise their abilities to summarize and synthesize information from scholarly sources of various disciplines and from interdisciplinary materials (writing, critical thinking).
- Students will have opportunities to make oral presentations of these summaries and syntheses (speaking).
- Students will learn to conduct interdisciplinary film research using both primary and secondary sources (critical thinking).
- Students will learn how to communicate these research findings in oral and written form (writing and speaking).
- Students will learn to research, study, analyze and compare films from their own culture and those of other cultures (critical thinking).
- Students will learn the importance of film studies in understanding cross-cultural interactions (citizenship).
- Students will learn the importance of film studies as a basis for social action (citizenship).
- Students will learn the significance of film as an integrated art form.
- Students will learn the significance of contemporary film to a study of contemporary culture and society.

**Required Texts & Films:**

- Bernard F. Dick, *Anatomy of Film* (6<sup>th</sup> edition) at TRS
- Selected readings on D2L
- Oliver Stone, *Platoon* (1986)
- Elem Klimov, *Come and See* (1985)
- David Mackenzie, *Hell or High Water* (2016)

- Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour Jr., *Black Box* (2020)
- Issa López, *Tigers Are Not Afraid* (*Vuelven*; 2017)
- Wim Wenders, *Wings of Desire* (*Der Himmel über Berlin*; 1987)
- Alan Pakula, *The Parallax View* (1974)
- Don Siegel, *Dirty Harry* (1971)
- Emerald Fennell, *Promising Young Woman* (2019)
- Jen and Sylvia Soska, *American Mary* (2012)
- Sophia Takal, *Always Shine* (2016)
- Anders Thomas Jensen, *Riders of Justice* (2020)
- Hal Hartley, *Amateur* (1994)
- Michelangelo Antonioni, *Blow-Up* (1966)
- Ziad Doueiri, *The Attack* (2012)

### Screenings in and Readings for Class:

You are required to attend all class film screenings and to do all assigned reading for this course. More importantly, you are expected to read all assignments and watch all films **carefully and conscientiously**, meaning you are to make note of your reactions to the readings/films and be prepared to share your critical thoughts and interpretations of the works we cover. If you do not understand something in the reading, you should read it again and work at its meaning; likewise, if something about a film is perplexing, watch it again and think about it carefully. This process is what is known as “critical reading” and “critical thinking”: you must study a writer’s language or filmmaker’s films and think critically about its meanings and ramifications.

The text listed above is available from Textbook Rental (TRS). Other required readings will be available online via our course page on D2L. On the day that a text is to be discussed, you must have that work with you in class. For **electronic readings (PDF or Web documents)**, you must **have readable access to those documents in class on the day the material is discussed**. Since this course emphasizes careful reading and writing, you must either print out the document(s) or use a laptop, desktop, iPad, Kindle, or Nook to view them. ***Using Smartphones to view readings for class discussion is not acceptable, unless directed to do so by the instructor.***

### Required Attendance, Materials & Editions:

- Check Panthermail (e-mail) **daily**
- Sign-up for and use “Remind” app for class texting
- Use text editions found at Textbook Rental
- Attend class and participate daily in discussion
- Attend all film screenings
- Complete all forum posts
- Additional readings via handouts or D2L

Attendance in EIU 4192G means that you are present in class each day in both *body and mind*—that is, I expect you to come to class each day having completed any required reading or listening or viewing assignments and ready to share your thoughtful, considered ideas. **Missing class and not completing assignments are not acceptable.** If you become ill or experience family or personal difficulties beyond your control, then you must notify me of your absence as soon as possible. Not completing daily assignments and not contributing to class discussion will result in poor participation grade scores. If you miss more than three (3) classes, your final course grade will be penalized: starting with the fourth (4th) absence, a “+” or “-” will be deducted from your final course grade.

**Smartphone/Social Media Policy:**

To protect the safety of the classroom and the privacy of the students, usage of cell phones or smartphones during class to videotape, to text, and to access social media sites or apps (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, YouTube, etc.) **is strictly forbidden**. Smartphone or cell phone use during class will only be permitted with the prior approval of the instructor.

**Turning in Assignments & Feedback:**

Assignments turned in via D2L Dropbox must be in **Microsoft Word format**. Instructor feedback will be embedded in graded writing. Be sure to review and save your graded essays. One of your most important tools for improvement will be the comments and corrections I make in or suggest to your writing. *If you wish to see your writing improve and your grade rise as the semester progresses, you must carefully refer back to these written comments as you write subsequent essays.*

**Guidelines for Specific Assignments:**

All written work should be formatted thus:

- Use Microsoft Word
- Use Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman or Cambria font
- Use 1" (top/bottom) and 1.25" (left/right) margins
- Include your name, course name, professor's name, and date on the front page
- Include a title for your essays
- Place your name and page numbers in the headers of your essays
- Turn in all written work electronically via D2L Dropbox

**Grading of Assignments:**

- Four (4) Analysis Task essays (3-4 pages each): 20%
- Participation in class discussions: 20%
- Forum posts for each film (250-300 words per post): 15%
- Discussion Leader exercises: 5%
- Précis & Annotated Bibliography for Term Paper: 15%
- Research Term Paper (9-11 pages): 25%

**Grading Scale:**

- A = 94-100
- A- = 90-93
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 84-86
- B- = 80-83
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 74-76
- C- = 70-73
- D = 60-69
- F = below 60

**Assignment Descriptions:**

All papers should be double spaced, in 12-point, Cambria or Times New Roman font, with 1" (top/bottom) and 1.25" (left/right) margins. Make sure to include your name, course name, professor's name, and date on the front page; a title for your paper; and your name and page

numbers in the headers of the paper. Submit all work electronically, in Microsoft Word format, in D2L Dropbox.

- **Four Analysis Task Essays (3-4 pages each):** These essays require you periodically to analyze closely one of the films that we watch throughout the course. The purpose of this assignment is two-fold: first, it is meant to help you develop and demonstrate a stronger grasp of film vocabulary to use when analyzing cinema; and second, it offers you a chance to explore ideas in depth related to a film, which in turn may spark an idea for your term paper.
- **Prospectus for Term Paper (1-2 pages):** This short paper requires you to state what you intend to work on for your Term Paper. You will need to identify your topic, the film or films (no more than two allowed) you will study, the themes/ideas you will explore, and what you hope to find or produce through your research and analysis. Finally, you should include a short bibliography of sources you have investigated that you think may be useful to your analysis.
- **The Term Paper (9-12 pages):** The Term Paper will require you to write a researched, interpretive analysis of a film of your choice. You should focus on a specific topic that you will explore in a film or two in order to develop and present an interpretive argument (that is, have a thesis statement!) about the film's meaning. Your paper should include at least 3-4 professional, academic sources related to film studies that you will use in proving your analysis.
- **D2L Forum Posts:** To prepare for each week's in-class discussion, you will be required to complete weekly posts to our discussion forum for the various films that we will study throughout the course. Your posts should demonstrate thoughtful analysis of each film by analyzing at least one (1) specific piece of evidence from each film for that week's post, as your way to support your interpretive thinking about the film. This means analyzing dialogue or other aspects of the *mise-en-scene* and making use of film vocabulary as you conduct your analysis.
- **Discussion Leader Assignment:** This assignment requires you to prepare for and lead one class discussion on a course film. To prepare for this assignment, you should zero in on a particular scene of a film that supports the ideas you have to share with the class to generate class discussion. Note: You will not have to complete a D2L Forum post on the day you are a discussion leader.
- **Class Discussion:** All students should strive to complete weekly D2L Forum posts to prepare for weekly class discussion. The more that you actively share your critical interpretive thoughts or questions about our films, the more points you earn towards class participation.

#### **A Note about Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is defined as "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language). If a student commits plagiarism, the instructor reserves the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to

report the incident to the Office of Student Standards. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources. If you use or refer to ideas or work other than your own, you must acknowledge the source and author of those ideas/that work and document it properly using MLA format (Purdue MLA guide: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>). **Remember: Failure to cite any outside sources or critics will constitute plagiarism.**

Most assignments will receive letter grades. For shorter assignments, the following check-mark system may be used:

- √+ = Excellent work that is strongly engaged, on-topic, and very well written.
- √ = Satisfactory work that is on-topic and cleanly written.
- √- = Below average work that shows little engagement, is off-topic, and is hurriedly and poorly written.

### **Student Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

### **Disability Services:**

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583.

### **Student Success Center:**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call [217-581-6696](tel:217-581-6696), or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

### **Tech Support:**

If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. E-mail and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, please contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours (8 am-5 pm) or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

### **COVID-19 Practices & Expectations on EIU's Campus:**

***All students, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear face coverings during class.*** Students may sit in any classroom seat where they are most comfortable. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide modifications to classroom seating arrangements if needed; however, this may not be possible in all situations.

***Students should not attend class if they are ill or feel sick and should consult the student health clinic if they have any COVID-19-like symptoms.*** Everyone in the campus community is

responsible for following practices that reduce risk. If you have a health condition that may require a potential classroom accommodation or variation from current EIU COVID-19 policy, please contact Student Disability Services ([studentdisability@eiu.edu](mailto:studentdisability@eiu.edu) or 581-6583) to determine what options may be available based on current CDC guidance.

If you are unable to follow EIU's COVID-19 guidelines, you may be asked to leave class or office hours as compliance with public health guidance is essential. Accommodations for instruction and make-up work will be made for students with documented medical absences according to IGP #43 [ <https://castle.eiu.edu/auditing/043.php> ]. To view the latest EIU COVID-19 related information and any policy updates, please visit <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/>.

**EIU 4192G, section 099:  
EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society  
Fall 2021 | Tentative Class Schedule\***

**\*Please note:** This schedule is *tentative*; activities or readings are subject to change depending on class progress.

Date	What We'll Do in Class	Homework
Tues., 8/24	<p>Discuss course policies and syllabus</p> <p>Cultural &amp; Intellectual background to contemporary society</p> <p>Discuss how film creates representation and meaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read "Sound" in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 36-50)</li> <li>- Read "Mise-en-Scène" in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 86-98)</li> <li>- Read "The Shot" in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 51-63)</li> <li>- Read sections on shots and editing in <i>Anatomy of Film</i> (pp. 69-83)</li> <li>- Complete Film Vocabulary Worksheet (D2L)</li> </ul>
Tues., 8/31	<p>1. Discuss examples of film techniques: bring <i>Anatomy of Film</i> and completed Film Vocabulary Worksheet to class</p> <p>2. Unit I - "[T]o show something is to ennoble it"? Representing War on the Screen: Watch Stone's <i>Platoon</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read excerpt regarding Francois Truffaut's response to cinema and "The Algerian Tragedy" (D2L)</li> <li>- Take notes while watching the film</li> </ul>
Tues., 9/7	<p>1. Discuss <i>Platoon</i> and assigned reading</p> <p>2. Unit I - "[T]o show something is to ennoble it"? Representing War: Watch Klimov's <i>Come and See</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take notes while watching the film</li> </ul>
Tues., 9/14	<p>1. Discuss <i>Come and See</i> and assigned reading</p> <p>2. Unit II - Individual Identity and Modern Society: Watch Antonioni's <i>Blow-Up</i></p> <p><b>Analysis Task #1 Due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Sep. 17, 5 PM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read excerpts from Guy Debord's <i>Society of the Spectacle</i> (D2L)</li> <li>- Take notes while watching the film</li> </ul>
Tues., 9/21	<p>1. Discuss <i>Blow-Up</i> and Debord handout</p> <p>2. Unit III - Modern Society and Justice: Watch and discuss Siegel's <i>Dirty Harry</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read Pauline Kael's "Saint Cop" and other critical reviews (D2L)</li> <li>- Take notes while watching the film</li> </ul>
Tues., 9/28	<p>1. Discuss <i>Dirty Harry</i> and assigned reading</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Take notes while watching the film</li> </ul>

	2. Unit III - Modern Society and Justice: Watch Fennell's <i>Promising Young Woman</i>	
Tues., 10/5	1. Discuss <i>Promising Young Woman</i>  2. Unit III - Modern Society and Justice: Watch Mackenzie's <i>Hell or High Water</i>  <b>Analysis Task #2 Due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Oct. 8, 5 PM</b>	- Take notes while watching the film
Tues., 10/12	1. Discuss <i>Hell or High Water</i>  2. Unit III - Modern Society and Justice: Watch Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour Jr.'s <i>Black Box</i>	- Take notes while watching the film  - Read W.E.B. DuBois's "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" (D2L); take notes while you read the essay
Tues., 10/19	1. Discuss <i>Black Box</i> and DuBois's essay  2. Unit IV - Spectacles of Sexuality: Watch Sophia Takal's <i>Always Shine</i>  <b>Précis/Annotated Bibliography for Research Term Paper due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Oct. 22, 5 PM</b>	- Read Laura Mulvey's "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (D2L)  - Take notes while watching the film
Tues., 10/26	1. Discuss <i>Always Shine</i> and Mulvey's essay  2. Unit IV - Spectacles of Sexuality: Watch the Soska Sisters' <i>American Mary</i>  <b>Analysis Task #3 Due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Oct. 29, 5 PM</b>	- Review Mulvey's essay - Take notes while watching the film
Tues., 11/2	1. Discuss <i>American Mary</i> and Mulvey's essay  2. Unit V - Global Perspectives: Watch Anders Thomas Jensen's <i>Riders of Justice</i>	<b>Reminders!</b> - <b>Be working on Research Term Paper!</b> - Take notes while watching the film
Tues., 11/9	1. Discuss <i>Riders of Justice</i>  2. Unit V - Global Perspectives: Watch Issa López's <i>Tigers Are Not Afraid</i>	<b>Reminders!</b> - <b>Be working on Research Term Paper!</b> - Take notes while watching the film

Tues., 11/16	<p>1. Discuss <i>Tigers Are Not Afraid</i></p> <p>2. Unit V – Global Perspectives: Watch Ziad Doueiri’s <i>The Attack</i></p> <p><b>Analysis Task #4 Due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Nov. 19, 5 PM</b></p>	- Take notes while watching the film
11/22- 11/28	<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	<b>Reminders!</b> <b>- Be working on Research Term Paper!</b>
Tues., 11/30	<p>1. Discuss Doueiri’s <i>The Attack</i></p> <p>2. Unit V – Global Perspectives: Watch Wenders’s <i>Wings of Desire</i></p>	<b>- Be working on Research Term Paper!</b> - Take notes while watching the film
Tues., 12/7	<b>Last Day of Class</b> Course evals Discuss <i>Wings of Desire</i>	<b>Research Term Paper is due in D2L Dropbox by Tuesday, Dec. 14, 10 PM</b>

**NO FINAL EXAM**