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EIU 4192G-600: Film and Contemporary Society Honors

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Eastern Illinois University

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EIU 4192G, section 600:
EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society
Spring 2021 | Online | Wednesdays 3-4.15 PM

Instructor: Dr. Bobby Martínez

Office: Coleman 3371

E-mail: rlmartinez@eiu.edu

Office Hours: Email me via Panthermail or set up an appointment for video conference

Class Custom Website: www.martinezliteraria.com/eiu4192

Main Course Content: D2L course site

Synchronous Class Meet-up Time: 3-4.15 PM on Wednesdays via D2L Collaborate

Meet the Professor:

Hello! I am Dr. Bobby Martínez of Eastern Illinois University (EIU). My area of specialization is twentieth-century and contemporary British and American literature, literary history of American and British literatures, film studies, and world literatures (Latin America, Europe). I always look forward to teaching this literary history course and I am eager to explore our course material together and to make the best of our current Covid/online life.

I am still fairly new to Illinois. I am not a native Midwesterner and have only lived in Illinois for 11 years now. I come from the Washington, D.C., “metro area” (i.e., D.C., Northern Virginia, Southern Maryland) and did all of my schooling in Virginia (BA) and North Carolina (MA, PhD). Before attending graduate school, I worked in “the real world” as a program analyst and writer/editor professional in the federal government/private business world for five years. I have been teaching courses in writing, early/medieval literature, modern and contemporary British literature and culture, contemporary Latin American literature, women’s studies, and film studies for over 19 years. Aside from teaching and literature, I enjoy studying a lot of genres of music and playing music (drums, guitars), and I have a special love for dogs (dachshunds are awesome, and I have a newfound love for pit bulls or “pitties”). And courtesy of my daughter, I now have a kitty cat, too.

How to Reach Me:

For official office hours, you can most easily contact me via Panthermail; my address is rlmartinez@eiu.edu (please note that I prefer using Panthermail over D2L’s internal e-mail). You can pretty much e-mail me at any time. I aim to respond to e-mails as they are received, but I will typically respond to e-mails within 24 hours. If you wish to schedule an appointment to discuss an assignment or question about the course, I can arrange for us to use video conferencing instead of e-mail. I will also try to have the class use the texting app Remind, which enables me to text the class updates and enables you all to text me privately.

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 2021 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* (6th edition) at TRS
- Selected readings and films on D2L Content
- Oliver Stone, *Platoon* (1986)
- Elem Klimov, *Come and See* (1985)
- David Mackenzie, *Hell or High Water* (2016)
- Sophia Takal, *Always Shine* (2016)
- Michael Haneke, *The White Ribbon* (2009)
- 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)
- Jen and Sylvia Soska, *American Mary* (2012)
- Sophia Takal, *Always Shine* (2016)
- Eskil Vogt, *Blind* (2014)
- Hal Hartley, *Flirt* (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.

I recommend the following:

- Take notes on the films we watch; make a note of scenes or dialogue or camera actions or shots that strike you as meaningful; these notes will help to prepare you for class discussion and paper assignments.
- If you do not understand something in the assigned reading, you should read it again and work at its meaning.
- If something about a film is perplexing, watch it again and think about it carefully. Jot down your ideas in your notebook.

This process is what is known as “critical reading” and “critical thinking”: you must study a writer’s language or a filmmaker’s language and images in their films and think critically about those meanings and their ramifications.

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 in online/video discussions
- Attend all film screenings
- Complete all forum posts

Synchronous Meetings and Class Participation:

My attendance policy is simple: I expect you to attend every class. In our current online environment, “attendance” means completing assigned forum conversation tasks on time **and** attending our synchronous video meetings for class discussion. Any synchronous class meetings that we have will usually be held at 3-4.15 p.m. on Wednesdays. By attend, I mean not merely showing up as a warm body, but being intellectually present in the class. Bring your book; take notes; come with something to say and/or be prepared to respond thoughtfully to the matters that we discuss in class.

Class is being held online only because of the ongoing Covid pandemic. I expect everyone to make their best effort to attend synchronous video discussions for class, and these meetings will be scheduled during our official course time (3-4.15 p.m. on Wednesdays) for that reason. Any video meetings will be recorded and preserved on D2L, and it will be the student’s responsibility to be aware of this material if they cannot attend a video meeting.

If you cannot attend a video meeting during the course of the semester or if you cannot complete a particular assignment on time, you should contact Dr. Martínez as soon as you can to seek guidance.

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.

Grading of Assignments:

- Four (4) Analysis Task essays (3-4 pages each): 25%
- Participation in class video meetings: 10%
- Forum posts for each film (250-400 words per post): 20%
- Précis & Annotated Bibliography for Term Paper: 15%
- Research Term Paper (9-11 pages): 30%

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

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
- Use MLA formatting
- 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

A Note about Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of someone else's ideas, words, or work as your own. 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/>). Plagiarism is an Honor Code violation at EIU, and offenders will be referred to the EIU Office for Student Standards. **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 1210, call 217-581-6583, or visit their website at <https://www.eiu.edu/disability/>

Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (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, stop by McAfee 1301, or visit their website at <https://www.eiu.edu/success/>

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.

**EIU 4192G, section 600:
EIU Honors Senior Seminar in Film & Contemporary Society
Spring 2021 | Tentative Class Schedule***

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

Introduction	Meet the Class, Review the Syllabus
Activities, Jan. 11-14:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the questions in the Discussion Forum to introduce yourself to the class by Wednesday, Jan. 13th, 5 p.m. • Read the course policies and syllabus <i>carefully!</i> • Post any questions about the course policies or assignments that you may have to D2L Forum by Thursday, Jan. 14th, 7 p.m.
Module 1:	Understanding How to Analyze Cinema
Module 1 Activities, Jan. 14-21	<p>Read the following sections in textbook, <i>Anatomy of Film</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Sound" (pp. 36-50) • "Mise-en-Scène" (pp. 86-98) • "The Shot" (pp. 51-63) • Sections on shots and editing (pp. 69-83) • Complete the "Film Terms Worksheet" as you read the above sections; complete by Wednesday, Jan. 20th, 3 p.m. • Post any questions you may have about film terminology to D2L Forum by Tuesday, Jan. 19th, 3 p.m. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion on Wednesday, Jan. 20th, 3-4.15 p.m.
Module 1 cont.:	Understanding How to Analyze Cinema
Module 1 Activities, Jan. 21-27:	<p>Group Analysis Assignment challenge (check D2L "News" for group assignment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group of 4 students will analyze two short film clips and will post their thoughts, as a group, to D2L Forum by Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. • Watch Hal Hartley's <i>Flirt</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 3 p.m. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of film clips and Hartley's <i>Flirt</i> on Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 3-4.15 p.m.
Module 2:	War Cinema, Representation, and the Analysis Task Assignment
Module 2 Activities, Jan. 28-Feb. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Analysis Task assignment sheet (D2L Content). <p>By Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 12 p.m., complete the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read excerpt regarding Francois Truffaut's response to conflict/war cinema in "The Algerian Tragedy" (D2L) • Read "Introduction" to <i>War on the Silver Screen</i> (D2L) • Read "Introduction" to <i>War Cinema</i> (D2L) • Watch Oliver Stone's <i>Platoon</i> (D2L Content)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post a brief critical response about <i>Platoon</i> to D2L Forum by Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of Stone's <i>Platoon</i> on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, 3-4.15 p.m.
Module 2 cont.:	War Cinema & Representation
Module 2 Activities, Feb. 4-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Elem Klimov's <i>Come and See</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, Feb. 10th, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>Come and See</i> to D2L Forum by Wednesday, Feb. 10th, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of Klimov's film on Wednesday, Feb. 10th, 3-4.15 p.m. <p>Analysis Task #1 due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Feb. 12th, 4 p.m.</p>
Module 3:	Modern Urban Life and the Experience of Existential Estrangement
Module 3 Activities, Feb. 11-17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Michelangelo Antonioni's <i>Blow-Up</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, Feb. 17th, 12 p.m. • Read excerpts from Guy Debord's <i>Society of the Spectacle</i> (D2L Content). • Post a brief critical response about <i>Blow-Up</i> to D2L Forum by Wednesday, Feb. 17th, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>Blow-Up</i> on Wednesday, Feb. 17th, 3-4.15 p.m.
Module 4:	Individual, Society, and Justice in Cinema
Module 4 Activities, Feb. 18-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Don Siegel's <i>Dirty Harry</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 12 p.m. • Read Pauline Kael's "Saint Cop" (D2L Content) before Wed., Feb. 24th. • Post a brief critical response about <i>Dirty Harry</i> and Kael's essay to D2L Forum by Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>Dirty Harry</i> on Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 3-4.15 p.m. <p>Analysis Task #2 due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, Feb. 26th, 4 p.m.</p>
Module 4 cont.:	Individual, Society, and Justice in Cinema
Module 4 Activities, Feb. 24-March 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch David Mackenzie's <i>Hell or High Water</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, March 3rd, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>Hell or High Water</i> to D2L Forum by Wed., March 3rd, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>Hell or High Water</i> on Wed., March 3rd, 3-4.15 p.m.
Module 5:	The Male Gaze & Filming Women
Module 5 Activities, March 3-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Laura Mulvey's essay, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative

	<p>Cinema" (D2L) before Wed., March 10th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Sophia Takal's <i>Always Shine</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, March 10th, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>Always Shine</i> and Mulvey's essay to D2L Forum by Wed., March 10th, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>Always Shine</i> on Wed., March 10th, 3-4.15 p.m.
Module 5:	The Male Gaze & Feminist Horror?: Jen & Sylvia Soska's <i>American Mary</i>
Module 5 Activities, March 10-March 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your notes and ideas about Laura Mulvey's essay, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (D2L) handy! • Watch the Soska's <i>American Mary</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, March 17th, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>American Mary</i> and Mulvey's essay to D2L Forum by Wed., March 17th, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>American Mary</i> on Wed., March 17th, 3-4.15 p.m. <p>Analysis Task #3 due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, March 19th, 4 p.m.</p>
March 18th-24th	Mental Health Break – No Assignments
Module 6:	Global Perspectives: Ziad Doueiri's <i>The Attack</i> (2012)
Module 6 Activities, March 24-31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Ziad Doueiri's <i>The Attack</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, March 31st, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>The Attack</i> to D2L Forum by Wed., March 31st, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>The Attack</i> on Wed., March 31st, 3-4.15 p.m. <p>Précis & Annotated Bibliography for Term Paper due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, April 2nd, 4 p.m.</p>
Module 6 cont.:	Global Perspectives: Eskil Vogt's <i>Blind</i> (2014)
Module 6 Activities, March 31st-April 7th:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Vogt's <i>Blind</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, before Wednesday, April 7th, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>Blind</i> to D2L Forum by Wed., April 7th, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>Blind</i> on Wed., April 7th, 3-4.15 p.m. • Be working on your term paper! Want to conference about it? Contact me.
Module 6 cont.:	Global Perspectives: Wim Wenders's <i>Wings of Desire</i> (1987)
Module 6 Activities, April 7th-14th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Vogt's <i>Wings of Desire</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, before Wednesday, April 14th, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>Wings of Desire</i> to D2L Forum

	<p>by Wed., April 14th, 12 noon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>Wings of Desire</i> on Wed., April 14th, 3-4.15 p.m.
Module 6 cont.:	Global Perspectives: Issa López's <i>Tigers Are Not Afraid</i> (2017)
Module 6 Activities, April 14th-21st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch López's <i>Tigers Are Not Afraid</i> (D2L Content) before Wednesday, April 21st, 12 p.m. • Post a brief critical response about <i>Tigers Are Not Afraid</i> to D2L Forum by Wed., April 21st, 12 noon. • Meet via D2L Collaborate for class discussion of <i>Tigers Are Not Afraid</i> on Wed., April 21st, 3-4.15 p.m. <p>Analysis Task #4 due in D2L Dropbox by Friday, April 23rd, 4 p.m.</p>
Module 7:	Finalize Term Paper Project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be working on/completing your term paper project! • Wednesday, April 28th, is last day of class. • Term paper due in D2L Dropbox by Tuesday, May 4th, 7 p.m.

No Final Examination