

College Course Evaluations

CMST 10100: Introduction to Film-1

Section 03 - Spring 2015

Instructor(s): Jones Ian

Identical Courses: ARTH 20000, ENGL 10800, ARTV 25300

Number Enrolled: 19

Number of Responses: 12

Evaluation Comments

What were the instructor's strengths? Weaknesses?

- Great lecturer, passionate about material, very interested to hear what students have to say.
- Mr Jones is excellent. He clearly knows a lot about film and film analysis, but didn't provide too much to overwhelm the class with a lot of information that is beyond the introductory level. He seemed very interested in what the students had to say when we discussed films in class. He was also very good at making sure that many students spoke during discussions instead of the same four people each time. Overall, I think Mr Jones is a great instructor who does a good job making the class enjoyable. (Also he's pretty cool because he really wanted us to fill out the course evaluations and so in our last class inserted three frames of the words "COURSE EVALS" as a subliminal way to remind us to fill these out. How cool is that?) The one weakness that Mr Jones has, in my experience, is that sometimes he can be intimidating to approach and ask questions about, but that wasn't as much of a problem once we got into the class.
- Professor Jones gives clear lectures, using his nifty little powerpoint-on-steroids thingy. He makes sure to outline what's important, loves to hear from students and is open to questions and input. Responds very promptly to emails, and obviously really wants to help his students. As for weaknesses, I felt that he called on the same people too often. Granted, only the same like six people ever raised their hands, but I still felt he could've said "Somebody else" just a little more often (he did say that on occasion, but I think he could've more). I also felt that he lectured a little too much. I really thought this course was going to be very discussion based when I signed up, and it was all lectures until about week six, and even after that it was mostly lecture.
- Ian was great at explaining the different concepts involved and showing a variety of clips, genres, etc. in class. He was really well organized and put a lot of effort into the lectures, which I liked because they were on prezi rather than a boring powerpoint.
- Ian's great at getting people to participate, and you can tell he's very passionate about the subject. I'd say you do have to be fairly interested in the topic, though, or else you might lose focus. Overall, I found his lectures super interesting and engaging. The screening choices were a good mix of popular movies and ones I'd never even pick up. Happy we watched them, though.
- Ian was great. He's engaging, organized, and was very open to different ideas/encouraged them.
- The lectures were clear and organized. Discussions weren't really a thing until later in the quarter
- Ian definitely asserted his authority and made the rules clear at the beginning of the course, which made it really nice to see him warm up to the class and become more familiar with us as the quarter progressed. I can't think of any weaknesses really, I think that he definitely made it very interesting and had the right balance of being authoritative/ relaxed.
- Ian is great! He's approachable and enthusiastic and provided good instruction.
- Ian clearly knows a great deal about film, and this was definitely a strength. However, a major weakness is that we rarely discussed the readings that were assigned, so if one was already familiar with the basics of that week's topic, it wasn't really necessary to do the readings in order to participate in class discussion. I would have like to discuss the readings more.
- Ian is so passionate about film - it's great! He made the class fun because he was so into the material himself. He's really intelligent and presented lectures in an interesting and informative way. This class was my favorite class I've taken so far at this school. While he is a bit strict and may not be the easiest person to communicate with via email, he is great to talk to in person and you will look at film in a totally different way after taking his class.
- Very passionate Knew what he was talking about

What were the teaching assistant's or writing intern's strengths? Weaknesses?

- N/A
- N/A
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a

What, if anything, would you change about this course and why?

- Sometimes we didn't get to discuss all the films we watched during the viewing, which was a little disappointing. I'm also sad that animation and digital film is during tenth week because, since I had the Tuesday/Thursday class, we don't get to talk about the films officially. There's an unofficial meeting Mr. Jones is planning on Thursday, but for my own reasons I can't attend it.
- I felt like too much time was taken to cover the basics. I don't think five weeks are necessary to go over basic film vocabulary, much of which is pretty intuitive. I think a lot of that could've been shrunk down into maybe three weeks, leaving the rest of the quarter to focus more on discussion. I also thought there were just way too many screenings that were boring af. It seemed like there was at least one mind-numbing film per screening. Obviously this has to do with personal taste, but maybe just cut back on the avant-garde crap a little bit.

- Nothing.
- Same screenings for all the classes. I feel like I want to take this class again because I'd get something different every time.
- nothing
- Nothing
- I really liked all the aspects of this course, from the screening choices and the class discussions themselves. If anything, I would hope that he warms up more quickly to his students next time- he's a really nice person! (Thumbs up to the bringing in baked goods)
- n/a
- Nothing

Is there any topic in this course that you wished you had had previous background in?

- Did not require any previous background
- It would have good if I knew some of the names of filmmakers or actors/actresses beforehand. It wasn't that much of a problem, but sometimes it would have helped alleviate some of my confusion if I had known who, say, Mel Gibson or Quentin Tarantino was.
- Nah
- None. It was all explained clearly and I didn't assume familiarity.
- n/a
- no
- no
- How I was expected to write a film paper specifically, although Ian's feedback definitely helped a lot.
- No, it provided a good overview.
- No

Which texts were most useful?

- The texts with lots of vocabulary were the most useful overall, since they really helped give a good resource for knowing what was important to learn (most helpful besides the lectures of course). The rest of the texts were interesting, but sometimes more in depth than it seemed necessary. I don't really care though, since I liked reading all of them.
- Idk, I didn't really read them.
- The Bordwell and Thompson readings were pretty informative.
- bordwell
- Thompson and Bordwell chapters definitely familiarised me with the terms, and the films themselves obviously.
- Bordwell and Thompson write in a way that is very accessible to someone not familiar with film, those were the best texts.
- All

Which least?

- The Eisenstein essay on Disney was confusing, but not...unhelpful. It was also good to discuss that in class, which helped make it more clear.
- Idk, I didn't really read them.
- Some of the ones on montage or other more abstract aspects of film were a bit dense.
- n/a
- none

How productive was class discussion?

- Quite productive
- The class as a whole brought up a lot of interesting viewpoints that I hadn't considered, and in that respect I liked it a lot.
- Discussion was pretty minimal. It was at times productive, but it always ran through Professor Jones. Students never discussed with or responded to each other, but rather they would say something to Ian, and then maybe he'd say something, and then the next student would again address Ian. This made discussions not exactly feel like discussions, but rather question and answer sessions.
- Sometimes discussions were productive, but it moved pretty fast and was dominated by a few people.
- You could tell that he really wanted kids to participate, and definitely tried to foster discussion. I think we just had a rough class, being in the morning.
- pretty productive
- Decently productive.
- The class discussion usually revolved around the same students, but this did not prevent others from speaking up and Ian definitely made an effort to call out to the others without putting them on the spot.
- Kind of like the same five people spoke during class discussion and nobody else really spoke, usually, so discussion was sometimes a little slow but it still generated good ideas.
- Awesome!!

How has this course contributed to your education?

- Given me vocabulary for film analysis
- I want to go into film studies and this class helped a great deal in terms of giving me a solid foundation and furthering my interest in the field.
- I learned a fair amount about film and different directors and techniques and some history. So I got that going for me.
- It has made me appreciate the editing and cinematography of films much more, and introduced me to a lot of non-mainstream Hollywood movies which are really cool! Overall, I'm much more interested in avant-garde films and documentaries than I was before (since I wasn't even aware there were many out there).
- I am no seriously considering majoring or minoring in Cinema and Media Studies.
- Definitely makes me reconsider majoring/ minoring in Film- it was a really nice introduction to cinema and media studies.
- I love film. I know a lot more about it now. I am probably going to minor in Cinema and Media Studies now. It has been a good course. 10/10 would recommend.
- This class has given me a newfound love for cinema and has made me see things in a whole new way. It's changed the way I think about and analyze art (besides just film), which has been especially helpful for my visual arts major.
- Definitely changed the way I look at films

Why did you take this course?

Core requirement	0 / 0%
Instructor Reputation	2 / 17%
Faculty member recommended it	0 / 0%
Concentration Requirement	3 / 25%
Meets at a convenient time	2 / 17%
A student recommended it	3 / 25%
Topic interests me	11 / 92%
Concentration elective	1 / 8%

In summary, I had a strong desire to take this course

Strongly Agree	10 / 83%
Agree	0 / 0%
Neutral	0 / 0%
Disagree	0 / 0%
Strongly Disagree	0 / 0%

How many hours per week did you spend on this course?

Low Answer	1
Average Answer	3.3
High Answer	6

What proportion of classes did you attend?

All	12 / 100%
75%	0 / 0%

50%	0 / 0%
25%	0 / 0%
None	0 / 0%

Were the time demands of this course reasonable?

Yes	11 / 92%
No	0 / 0%

The Instructor

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Organized the course clearly.	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	67%
Presented clear lectures.	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	67%
Held my attention and made this course interesting.	0%	0%	0%	8%	25%	67%
Stimulated and facilitated questions and discussions.	0%	0%	0%	8%	33%	58%
Responded well to student questions.	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%
Was available outside of class.	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	67%
Was helpful during office hours.	17%	0%	0%	8%	25%	50%
Motivated independent thinking.	0%	0%	0%	8%	50%	42%

The Readings

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fulfilled the objective of the course.	0%	0%	8%	0%	25%	58%
Were reasonable in number.	0%	0%	0%	8%	33%	50%
Were appropriately difficult.	0%	0%	0%	17%	25%	50%

Approximately how much of the reading did you do?

	N/A	None	25%	50%	75%	100%
	0%	0%	0%	0%	33%	17%

The Assignments

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
How helpful were the lectures and discussions in preparing for exams and completing assignments?	0%	0%	0%	8%	25%	67%
How appropriately were the						

requirements of the course proportioned to course goals?	0%	0%	0%	8%	17%	75%
How well did the requirements contribute to the goals of the course?	0%	0%	0%	8%	17%	75%
How timely and useful was feedback on assignments and exams?	0%	0%	0%	17%	8%	75%
How fairly were the assignments graded?	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%	83%

Overall

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	83%
This course provided me with new insight and knowledge.	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	83%
This course provided me with useful skills.	0%	0%	0%	8%	17%	75%
The content of this course was presented at an appropriate level.	0%	0%	0%	8%	8%	75%
I put my best effort into this course.	0%	0%	8%	0%	25%	67%
The class had a high level of morale/enthusiasm.	0%	0%	0%	33%	33%	33%

The Teaching Assistant(s)

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were available outside of class.	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Were helpful with assignments.	92%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Discussion Sections, Problem Sessions, Writing Tutorials

	N/A	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Were well coordinated with this course and contributed to it.	83%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%
Provided well-designed materials.	83%	0%	0%	0%	0%	17%

Did you consult the visual materials placed online via Chalk (specifically, the clips from films, and links to the visual presentations from lectures), and, if so, did you find that they helped you gain comfort with the vocabulary of the course, and prepare you for the early assignments such as the shot description written assignment and vocab exam?

- No
- To be honest, no, since we watched them all in class. I only consulted them online for the shot description assignment.
- Nah
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes. They were great.
- Yes definitely.

- Occasionally, for assignments.
- No
- yes

Did you find the selection of films for the course's screenings to be appropriate for digesting ideas and spurring on discussion in an introductory-level course in cinema studies?

- Yes. Very much enjoyed the films and the discussion that followed from them.
- Some of the more experimental films were not as useful as others, save the ones from the week on non-continuity editing and found footage. It was just a little more difficult to see how it related to the vocabulary or what we were discussing that week, especially if we didn't discuss it in class. Although, of course, it is very interesting to see a variety of films beyond just the mainstream ones. All the other ones were fine.
- Dude, whoever's in charge of designing the web pages for these course evaluations questions are all getting cut off. Also, what's with this 30 minutes of less thing? I think most of the films were well chosen to relate to the topics we were covering, I just wish some of them weren't so boring.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- Yes, its was a good variety.
- Yes the selection of films was great!!
- Yep!
- Yes
- yes, but some could have been better

What films were your favorite and least favorite, considered in terms of the needs of the course? (Although personal tastes will inevitably seep in here, try to make a case for why these films were good or bad in terms of the needs of the syllabus, in addition to matters of just personal liking/disliking.)

- In terms of needs for the course, favourites were Playtime and Waltz with Bashir. Least favourite: People on Sunday
- Gravity, Scream, and A Movie were the three films that I found best examples of films for the week's theme and discussion.
- I thought PlayTime was an excellent choice. I hated Gravity, but's that's only because Sandra Bullock is like the worst astronaut ever, not because it didn't pertain to what we were covering. I didn't really feel like any of the films didn't pertain to that week's topic.
- Favorites were In the Mood for Love, Waltz with Bashir, Opus 1, and The Subconscious Art of Graffiti Removal. Least favorites were People on Sunday and some of the more abstract ones like the film on the New York subway.
- In the Mood for Love- so happy we watched that!
- Favorites: In the Mood for Love, Lego Movie Least Favorite: Daisies
- I loved daisies, clueless, in the mood for love, etc. I think some films were harder to digest but still necessary for the courseâ the more abstract ones were probably among my less favourite ones.
- I loved a lot of them! In the Mood for Love, Daisies, A Movie, and Waltz With Bashir jump to mind immediately as my favourites. But I didn't, like, dislike any of them. They were all really good and they all presented really interesting issues to discuss.
- favorite: in the mood for love least favorite: the red and the white

Did you feel that there was adequate discussion of the films viewed in the screenings? (In particular - should there have been more general discussion of student reactions to the films, apart from their use as a demonstration of the week's concepts?)

- Discussion was adequate
- In the beginning, there wasn't as much discussion, though I'm not sure how necessary that was, since it was mostly just vocabulary we learned. I think what we did in the second half of the quarter was fine.
- Not really. I wish we'd had more time to discuss with less lecture.
- Some films were discussed in detail, but others not so much. In particular, when there are a lot of short films included in the screening, some of them get overlooked and I would have liked to maybe get a little bit of discussion or background on why those were shown.
- Yes.
- I thought it was an okay amount. More could have been good too but I don't think it was lacking.
- Yes, I think there could have been more discussion on some of the films- particularly when we watched several that week but we mostly were able to really evaluate all the really crucial films covered (which ended up being the ones people wrote most about).
- Usually. Would've often liked more, but time constraints are a real thing.
- yes

