

FIL3307
Docudrama

Instructor: Lisa Peterson

Class time: Thursday 9a to 1150a in NSC 145

Hours for Fall 2017

TUES 930-1130a, WED 1-5p, or by appt.

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SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION AT ANY TIME

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE [PREQUIZ](#) NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Some of the we screen in class and materials discussed may express controversial themes, violence, nudity, strong language etc. If you are concerned about participating, discuss it with me in person.

What is this course about?

UCF Catalog Description: Docudrama 3 credits PR: FIL2107 and Film BFA or Cinema Studies major, or C.I. Techniques to dramatize real-life events and persons, with emphasis on representation, adaptation and ethics. Occasional.

Why is this course important?

This course is important in that you will develop a set of analytical skills and criteria that will aid you in your appreciation of the form and in the creation of texts arising from history and/or “real life.” I think it is imperative that we all constantly hone our ability to listen, to question and to analyze in this era of infotainment, “fake news” and “alternate facts.”

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When this course is completed, you will be able to question a text of any kind, but especially the docudrama. You will see behind the curtain and always be asking, “What is the agenda of the person presenting this information? And how might that be distorting what they are presenting to me?”

We will explore these questions through readings, screenings, lectures, in-class activities and assignments.

What is docudrama?

How does it differ from documentary and narrative fiction films?

What is truth? How much latitude should the filmmakers have with the truth?

Can we apply ethics to docudramas?

How do you measure whether a docudrama is playing fast and loose with the truth?

What should the guidelines be?

What are the course policies?

Grading

Your grade will be based on a 1000-point scale. If you want to earn an A, you will need to earn between 940 and 1000 points (the complete scale is below). Should you earn more than 1000 points, it doesn't improve your grade beyond an A. It is possible to get a zero on assignments (meaning you don't get full points just for submitting the assignment). Assignment submissions are graded as per the rubric - see assignment details on the Canvas course webpage.

Expect the essays to be graded more stringently than normal. Check the rubric closely for each assignment before submitting it. The assignment details are available through the course Canvas page.

There are two due dates for papers, two papers maximum per deadline. You can't turn in four papers at the end of the course, only two in the middle and two at the end. Any prompt is fine, you select what you want to write on.

DUE DATES FOR PAPERS:

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October 12

November 30

You earn points through:

- Essays – 600 word minimum, 250 points each. You are limited to a total for the course of 4 essays for your score. There will be essay prompts posted on the website from which you can choose.

Essay Requirements

Entire paper double spaced, 12 pint Arial font.

Student Name and FIL3307 in top left corner.

Follow MLA citation and Works Cited rules

Include at least two scholarly articles as support for your essay points, using MLA in text citation format and Works Cited page. No Wikipedia, only scholarly journal articles related to your essay.

Essay Grade Rubric (250 points)

- A (250) - an outstanding essay that completely addresses the prompt, provides excellent support information as required, is compelling and well-written with few if any grammatical errors. Cites at least two academic works and follow correct MLA format for both in -text citation and Works Cited page.
- B (215) – effectively answers the prompt but shows flaws in support information, format, writing and/or grammar.
- C (190) – provides a minimal answer to the prompt, weakly written, showing many problems with support information, essay organization, writing and/or grammar
- D (165) – fails to completely answer the prompt and/or shows significant flaws in organization, basic writing competency and/or grammar.
- F (0) – fails to answer the prompt and displays repeated, significant problems in organization, basic writing competency and/or grammar.

Partial (+/-) grades can be awarded to essays which fall between the above criteria.

- In class quizzes - There are assigned readings and brief in-class essay quizzes on the assigned reading.

- Attendance - Each student is permitted two absences per semester. Leaving class early or arriving late for class can count against the attendance portion of your grade at the discretion of the instructor. If a class is missed, students are expected to see the films outside of class on their own.

The Attendance Grade will be calculated as follows:

1. Two or less absences – 50 point bonus
 2. Three absences – 100 point deduction from final points
 3. Four absences –300 point deduction from final points.
 4. Five absences – 500 point deduction from final points.
- Optional Final- 100 points. If you're happy with your grade, you won't need to attend the final. If you totally screw up a quiz or essay, you'll have an opportunity to recapture those points with another assignment. The choices are yours.

	MAX PTS AVAILABLE	SAMPLE STUDENT
Paper 1	250	215
Paper 2	250	215
Paper 3	250	0
Paper 4	250	215
Quizzes	168	120
Optional Final	100	100
Attendance	50	50
	1318	915

A = 940 or higher

A- = 900 - 939

B+ = 870 - 899

B = 840 - 869

B- = 800 - 839

C+ = 770 - 799

C = 740 - 769

C- = 700 - 739

D = 650 - 699

F = less than 650

Technology Policies

I use Canvas Announcements through our course webpage to communicate my messages to you. Be sure your official email attached to your myUCF profile is valid and check your e-mail at least daily.

Do not use cell phones and devices in class, which can prevent you or others from learning. In cases of emergency, please take your phone outside.

If you persist in checking your phone, texting, using your iPad, etc., during class or screenings, I will have to deduct up to 500 points from your final grade. You may also be asked to leave the class.

Deadlines

Homework will be due at noon on the due date. Homework turned in late will receive a 50% reduction. As of 48 hours after the deadline, homework can no longer be turned in late and the grade will be a zero.

Textbook requirements

No textbooks are required, but there are readings that will be provided either as a PDF or a link through the Canvas course webpage.

The Technical Stuff ...

Course Objectives: the building of skills in rhetoric, analysis and critical thinking about docudramas.

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- analyze the validity of the docudrama as fact and fiction
- categorize texts into genres and subgenres
- develop a greater understanding of the value of the rhetorical argument beneath every text

Academic Integrity

All sources should be disclosed using proper citation format, see rubrics.

It is assumed that all students will be courteous to the instructor and to their fellow students, will listen attentively at all times, will arrive on time, return from break on time and stay for the entire class. Leaving early or a late arrival for class can count against the attendance portion of your grade at the discretion of the instructor.

Students will abide by any and all of the University rules

(<http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) which include but are not limited to:

Possessing and/or Providing False and Misleading Information and/or Falsification of University Records to Instructor

Disruptive Conduct

Personal Abuse

Disregarding these expectations may result in a reduction of your grade.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities or other issues who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations

This syllabus is subject to change. All dates, assignments, scheduled screenings and other statements in this syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be noted on Canvas.

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