SYLLABUS
Politics In Film
University of Central Florida
FALL 2015

Professor Mark Logas
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Office Location: Outside Hall-CB1-318

Class Meets: Tuesday/Thursday 9:00am-10:15am
Room: CB1-318
Course: POS 3258

POS 3258 COURSE DESCRIPTION

The influence of motion pictures on popular understanding of American and international politics. **Credit Hours: 3**

MAJOR TOPICS/CONCEPTS/SKILLS/ISSUES

- Evolution of Film in Politics: Theatrical performances and Television
- Film Production and New Technology
- Decades of Political Film Making and Influence
- Political Films and Television shows by Topic
- Women, Politics, and Film
- Portrayal of Blacks in Film
- Film Coverage of War
- Communist Influence in Hollywood, McCarthy Hearings, and Blacklisting
- Patriotism in Film
- Censorship, Prior Restraint and Free Speech Protection

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Terry Christensen and Peter J. Haas. 2005. Projecting Politics: Political Messages In American Films. M.E. Sharpe, Inc. Armonk, New York/London, England ISBN: 978-0765614445

Mason, J. Cheney. 2014. Justice In America . TitleTown Green Bay, Wisconsin ISBN: 0-9911938-8-1

STUDENT PREPARATION & EVALUATION

Students who enroll in this course are expected to demonstrate maturity, responsibility, professionalism, respect for differing viewpoints, and a general understanding of the relationship between film production, TV, and government.

Class meetings will follow a combination lecture/discussion format. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assigned reading from the text reading and to meet other course requirements outlined in your syllabus. Lectures, discussions, video presentations, and guest speakers will not always parallel text material. Exam material will include subjects covered in class as well as text reading assignments which may not be covered in class.

Class attendance and participation will impact your final grade. The evaluation method: ***Meaningful Participation in each class***=Excellent/Above Average; ***Occasional Participation***=Average; ***Little or No Participation***=Below Average/Failing. Participation grades will be assigned based on the student's contributions throughout the semester.

Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide notification from the **Student Accessibility Services Office** and discuss specific needs with the instructor, ***during the first two weeks of class***.

Audio/Video recording of any portion of the class and/or posting of comments made by students and the instructor is strictly prohibited and will be considered a violation of privacy rights. This includes social media websites, including but not limited to: YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, Blogs, and news media.

UCF *KNIGHTS E-MAIL* COMMUNICATION, CLASS ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCF uses e-mail as the official means of notifying students of important university business. Every student must register for, and maintain a Knights E-mail account at *http://www.knightsemail.ucf.edu* and check it regularly. Throughout the semester, I will send important information to your assigned Knights E-mail account.

I will not discuss or share any class or grade information through the Internet unless you send a specific written request to me through your UCF account. I will only discuss course content and performance through your assigned UCF student account. Non-UCF based e-mails are automatically deleted without being read.

UCF does not accept responsibility if official communication fails to reach a student who has not registered for, or maintained and checked on a regular basis, their Knights E-Mail account.

ATTENDANCE POLICY-*UNEXCUSED ABSENCES*

Attendance is expected and will contribute to course grades. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Five (5) points will be deducted from the attendance grade for ***each*** scheduled class that is missed throughout the semester. Students who arrive late to class or leave before class is dismissed will be counted as absent. ***Students who arrive late or are absent on the day a guest speaker is in class will lose ten (10) points.***

ATTENDANCE-*QUIZZES & WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS*

Students may be given unannounced quizzes and written assignments that will not be given on a make-up basis. **If you are not in class on the day a quiz or written assignment is given, you will receive a zero (0) for that quiz.**

Late papers are not accepted. **Quiz/Papers not turned in by the deadline will earn a zero (0) grade.**

If you believe that you might be sick the day your paper is due, experience printer problems, or encounter traffic problems, it is your responsibility to turn your paper in early, prior to the deadline.

Electronic submissions are not accepted and will be deleted. Papers may not be turned in by other students.

ATTENDANCE-*CELLULAR PHONES, PAGERS, AND IPOD POLICY*

All iPods, iPads, iPhones, cellular phones, pagers, and electronic recording devices must be turned off or placed on a silent mode and out of sight during class. **If you leave during class to answer a silent call or text please do not return as these interruptions are rude and disruptive to the learning process.** Students who fail to comply with this rule will be asked to leave the classroom, receiving a grade of "0" toward their participation grade. If there is an emergency situation warranting the silent mode use of a cell phone during class, notify me in writing prior to class.

STUDENT CONDUCT & ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR STANDARDS

Students are subject to federal and state laws and local ordinances as well as regulations prescribed by the University of Central Florida and the Florida Board of Governors. The breach or violation of any of these laws or regulations may result in disciplinary action. Detailed conduct regulations and procedures are presented in *The Golden Rule*.

The University of Central Florida is committed to a policy of honesty in academic affairs. Conduct that comprises a breach of this policy may result in academic action and/or disciplinary action. Academic action affects student assignments, examinations or grades. Disciplinary action affects student enrollment status. Examples of conduct for which students may be subject to academic and/or disciplinary penalties including expulsion are:

~Cheating, whereby non-permissible written, visual, electronic or oral assistance including that obtained from another student is utilized on examinations, course assignments, or projects. The unauthorized possession or use of examination or course related material shall also constitute cheating.

~Plagiarism, whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own. Any student failing to properly credit ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

~Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling notes, handouts, etc. without authorization or using them for any commercial purpose without the express written permission of the University and the Instructor is a violation of this rule.

Note: A student who has assisted another in any of the aforementioned breach of standards shall be considered equally culpable. In cases of cheating or plagiarism, the instructor may take appropriate academic action ranging from loss of credit for a specific assignment, examination, or project to removal from the course with a grade of "F."

Note: The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the professor.

Students who display disruptive behavior that detracts from the learning experience of other students will be asked to leave the classroom.

GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

Students will have an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the relationship between film and government by listening to professionals who will share their experiences and by asking questions of our guest speakers. ***Class etiquette when Guest Speakers are present will play a major role in your Participation grade.***

VIDEO SERIES

Students will view clips from movies and television shows from several decades. Students will be responsible for watching the entire films and shows that are assigned and/or discussed and not just the portions that I will show in class for supplemental and/or discussion purposes.

RESEARCH POSITION PAPER

Students will be required to write a position paper based on *motion picture movies* and *television shows* that have been instrumental in projecting political messages in American films, while impacting our popular culture. Papers must include citations from the actual film/TV show chosen by the student that are listed in **Bold** on the Tentative Class Schedule page. Students must demonstrate a general understanding of the motion picture film and television show, use specific examples to illustrate the political messages, and clearly articulate the outcome of the message on the intended audience and popular culture.

EXAMS

Another portion of the course grade will be determined by the student's performance on three exams (2 regular exams and 1 Final Exam). Each exam will consist of term/concept identification and essay topics. The exam schedule can be found on the tentative assignment sheet. Students will take exams in the classroom. Graded Exams will be returned during class. The Final Exam will cover Unit 3 material and will also be a comprehensive evaluation of each student's knowledge and understanding of the course. Any student not taking the final exam will earn a final grade of "F".

There will be no early exams allowed unless arrangements are made with the instructor at least one week prior to the scheduled exam. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if a medical emergency situation or family death arises ***prior to an exam***. Failure to notify the instructor **prior** to the missed exam will result in a zero (0) grade on the exam. **There will be no make-up exams given if proper documentation of the above situation is not provided.** Make-up exams will be given at the instructor's convenience. **There will be no make-up Final Exams**.

In addition to the cellular phone/pager attendance policy, STUDENTS WHO BRING THEIR CELLULAR PHONES and/or ELECTRONIC DEVICES TO CLASS ON EXAM DAY AND OPENLY DISPLAY THEM DURING THE EXAM WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE ROOM. IN ADDITION, A GRADE OF "0" WILL BE ASSIGNED FOR THAT SCHEDULED EXAM. Students who bring cellular phones and/or electronic devices to class on exam dates must turn them off and keep them out of sight during the exam.

COURSE GRADES

Final Course grades will be determined by:

- Attendance/Participation/Guest Speaker series (25%)
- Research Position Paper (25%)
- Two (2) Exams (25%)
- Final Exam (25%)

The average will be evaluated on the following scale:

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
0 - 59 = F

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students may withdraw from a class and receive the notation of "W" until the date noted in the "Academic Calendar" online at *http://www.registrar.ucf.edu/calendar/academic*. A student may withdraw from courses using myUCF at *https://my.ucf.edu*, or by visiting the Registrar's Office (MH 161), certain college advising offices, or a Regional Campus records office. Students seeking to withdraw in person must sign the request and must provide photo identification. The official date of withdrawal is the date the University receives the withdrawal request. Withdrawing from classes may have financial aid, NCAA eligibility or international visa consequences. Students should seek appropriate advisement prior to withdrawing from a class. The **Withdrawal Deadline** is: **NOVEMBER 2, 2015.**

A student is not automatically withdrawn from a class for not attending, nor can an instructor withdraw a student from a class. No withdrawal is permitted after the deadline except in extraordinary circumstances. Unsatisfactory academic performance is not an acceptable reason for withdrawal after the deadline.

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday/Thursday: 8:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Student area outside CB1-318
Tuesday/Thursday: 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Student area outside PSY-105

Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at anytime during the term by announcement of the professor. It is your responsibility to stay informed of any changes.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

CLASS	CHAPTER	TOPICS TO BE COVERED
8/25 & 8/27	1-Setting the Scene	Class introduction-Overview of Semester-*The New Politics In Film* *A Theory of Film and Politics ~ Mr. Smith Goes To Washington*
9/1 & 9/3	2-Making of a Message	*Film Production and Techniques*
9/8 & 9/10	3-Causes & Special Effects	*Political Environment of Film* **Unit 1 Exam - Chapters 1, 2, & 3**
9/15 & 9/17	4-Politics in Silent Movies 5- 1930s: Great Depression	*Motion Picture Studio Transitions: MGM-The Lion's Roar* *Movies: Wizard of Oz,* **Gone With the Wind**, *All Quiet Western Front*
9/22 & 9/24	6-1940s: Hollywood to Movies	*Walt Disney: On the Front Lines-Victory Through Air Power, Dr. Seuss Goes To War, Casablanca ~~ Post-War:* **It's A Wonderful Life**
9/29 & 10/1	7-1950s: Anti Communism 8-1960s: Mainstream/Counterculture	*Television Influence:* **Leave It To Beaver**, *I Love Lucy,* **Superman** *Movies:* **Sound of Music**, *Walt Disney, James Bond, Anti-War/Establish* **Head**, *Miracle Of White Stallions ~ Television:* **Monkees**, **Gilligan's Island**, *Hogan's Heroes,* **Adam-12**, *Star Trek,* **My Three Sons**
10/6 & 10/8		***No Class - Students are encouraged to finish their Research Papers.***
10/13 & 10/15	8-1960s: Mainstream/Counterculture	*Movies: Anti-War/Establish* **Head** *Television:* **Adam-12**, *Star Trek* **Unit 2 Exam - Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8**
10/20 & 10/22	9-1970s: Paranoia/Anti-Capitalism	*Movies:* **All The President's Men**, *Animal House, Halloween* *ABC Television: Brady Bunch,* **Partridge Family**, *Odd Couple, Room 222, Love American Style, Happy Days, Mork & Mindy, Benson*
10/27 & 10/29	9-1970s: Paranoia/Anti-Capitalism	*CBS Television:* **All In The Family**, *Bob Newhart,* **Mary Tyler Moore**, **M*A*S*H**, *Good Times, Maude, Jeffersons, Dallas, Kojak, NBC Television:* **Little House on the Prairie,** *Dean Martin***,** *Sanford & Son,* **Chico & The Man**, *Flip Wilson, SNL, NBC Mystery Movie*
11/3 & 11/5	10-New Patriotism	*Movies: Rambo, Right Stuff, E.T,* **Survivors**, *Tootsie Television:* ***Cosby*** *Family Ties, Cheers, Night Court, Hill Street Blues, Remington Steele, Dallas, A-Team, Knight Rider,* **Golden Girls**, *Miami Vice*
11/10 & 11/12	11-1990s: And Beyond 9/11	*Movies:* ***Pursuit of Happyness***, **Tomorrow Never Dies**, *Die Hard,* **Star Trek 6-Undiscovered Country**, *Death of a President, Wag the Dog,* ***24***
11/17 & 11/19	12-True Lies? Docudramas, Entertainment, or Investigative News?	*The Rise of Political Documentaries* **Flight 93**, *Fahrenheit 9/11,* **Bowling For Columbine**, *Day After Tomorrow,* **Red Tails**, *Obama 2016,* **America** ~~ TV-*America's Most Wanted, Unsolved Mysteries*
11/24 & 11/26→	13-Film & Politics of Race ***No class Thanksgiving Day Holiday***	*Minority Report-Movies:* **Barbershop**, *Mississippi Burning,* **Flower Drum Song**, *The Color Purple, Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?*
12/1 & 12/3	14-Women, Politics, & Film Appendix 4: The Bottom Line	*Movies: Sleeping With the Enemy, 9 to 5, Fatal Attraction* *Television: Murphy Brown, Murder She Wrote,* **Mad About You** *Domestic Gross Receipts by Decade*
12/10	***Final Exam-Covers Chapters 9-14***	**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**