

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

**FILM-213**  
**Silent Film**  
**3 Semester Hours**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

This course focuses on the development of visual language, genres, social attitudes and acting style of the silent film era. Major films and significant directors will be covered. This is a detailed critical guide to several silent motion picture projects, from Eadward Muybridge's initial motion photography experiments in 1877 to the 1997 silent film *The Taxi Dancer*. (3 hours weekly)

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Identify running themes in silent films.
2. Discuss the directors' use of *mise-en-scène* and revolutionary camera angles.
3. Analyze some of the editing techniques used in the silent era.
4. Distinguish different cinematic styles and genres developed over the span of silent film.
5. Compare and contrast key elements in film authorship, genre, ideology and theory.
6. Analyze silent films and place them in their cultural settings.

### **Major Topics**

- I. The Beginnings of Silent Film
  - a. Eadward Muybridge
  - b. D.W. Griffith
  - c. Sergei Eisenstein
  - d. Vsevolod Pudovkin
  - e. Charlie Chaplin
  - f. Buster Keaton
  - g. Harold Lloyd
- II. The Golden Age of the 1920s
  - a. Josef von Sternberg
  - b. G. W. Pabst
  - c. Yasujiro Ozu
  - d. Fritz Lang
  - e. F.W. Murnau
  - f. Robert Weine
  - g. Carl Theodor Dreyer

- h. The Jazz Singer (1927)
- III. Post-Silent Era
  - a. Silent Movie (1976)
  - b. Taxi Dancer (1997)

**Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member.

**Other Course Information**

This course is an Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts and Humanities Elective.