

COURSE OUTLINE
FILM-218
Introduction to Film and Literature
3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Introduction to Film and Literature is a comparative study of films and the literary sources upon which they are based, with special attention given to basic differences between genres. Students are introduced to the formalist conventions and characteristics, terms and concepts, and critical theory of film and literature in order to master skills in interpretation, analysis, and critical evaluation. The course explores a variety of styles, periods, and forms, but individual sections of the course may focus on a genre, topic, or theme. This course is writing intensive. Prerequisite: ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as ENGL-218.

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify and apply literary and film terms, concepts, devices and characteristics
2. Think critically and independently in interpreting film and literature
3. Compare and contrast literary and film techniques used to construct a narrative
4. Compare film adaptations of various works of literature from a particular writer
5. Compare approaches to a particular work of literature as it has been treated by more than one filmmaker
6. Perform basic research in these fields and use MLA-style documentation
7. Analyze the processes and challenges involved in turning a literary work (novel or play) into a screenplay and then into a film
8. Distinguish cinematic and literary movements (e.g., surrealism, expressionism, realism) present in film adaptations of literature
9. Analyze how both media reflect human values
10. Understand and demonstrate the conventions of writing about literature and film
11. Demonstrate aesthetic appreciation through clear and intelligent written evaluations

Major Topics

- I. Literature Formalist Elements
- II. Film Formalist Elements
- III. Introduction to Film Theory
- IV. Introduction to Literary Theory

V. Filmic Moment vs. Literary Moment

Course Requirements

Specific assignments and procedures for evaluating students' performance in the class (i.e. grading) will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

1. Students will use writing as a means to learn, to integrate information, to review what they have learned, and to clarify their responses to assigned works.
2. Students will write at least three interpretive papers. The required papers will communicate with a specific audience and meet the minimum standard of proficiency for college level writing. Papers will be evaluated not only on content, but also on clarity of expression and style. (A total of at least 2,500 words of formal, graded writing is required.)
3. At least 60% of the final grade will be based upon writing, both formal and informal.
4. Students will study a minimum of eight "texts" in each genre.

Other Course Information

This is a Literature/Humanities Core, a Fine Arts Core and an English and Arts & Sciences Elective.