

Welcome to Online Cinema 107



I want to welcome you to this online version of Cinema 107, Understanding Motion Pictures. In this course we will cover everything we do in the face to face version of the class, but it will be totally done online. **There are no in- person class meetings.**

Beginning Monday, February 6th, your "virtual class" will be available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Cinema 107 is designed to make you a better critical thinker and appreciate cinema in a new light. We will be doing that by an analytical critical survey of motion pictures as an art form, entertainment industry, and communication medium via screenings, lectures, readings about 'classic' and 'contemporary' films, American and foreign, theatrical and non-theatrical. And all of this will be done online.

Earning a Grade

I don't grade on a curve. You will receive points for all of your assignments and at the end of the fall semester your points will be totaled and you will receive the grade that corresponds to your point total. All of you can receive a high grade if you make the effort.

I will ask you to do **three** tasks in this class:

- *participate in online discussions
- *take quizzes on each chapter
- *complete homework assignments

If you spend the time and make the effort, you all can do well.

Textbook

We will be using the textbook, Understanding Movies, by Louis Giannetti, 12th edition. The text is necessary for the course and can be obtained at the Los Angeles Valley College Bookstore, and other online vendors. You should also be able to go to the bookstore online at <http://www.lavcbookstore.com/> to order the book and have it sent to you.

Films

As this is a cinema course, you will need to have access or the ability to rent, borrow, obtain various titles each week of the course, viewing them, and at times, discussing them and doing homework assignments regarding their content. A list of titles for the entire semester you will need is at the end of this letter. Please make sure you have seen them BEFORE the module (week) is released for the next class.

Possible online locations: Netflix, Blockbuster, etc. Your local library may also have titles available. **NOTE: The unavailability of a title will NOT be an excuse to not have seen a film, as all titles are available through Netflix, your local video store, etc. I strongly suggest you preorder these titles as much in advance as you can.

Please don't take the class if you are unable to view these films.

The Class

To be successful in this course you need to log into the class at least three times a week. Remember, if you were taking this class at the college in a regular class, you would be spending close to 3 hours per week in class and that doesn't include reading the text, studying and doing homework. Then add to that drive time to and from the college and you may spend up to 6 - 7 hours a week in class. So I expect you to be online often and spending time reading the material and participating in the discussions. You do well on these and you will do well in the class.

Getting Started

To enter the class you will need to go to the class portal at: <https://myetudes.org>

The log-in instructions can be found at:

<http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/loggingonline.htm>

Help Desk

If you have any problems with logging in or concerns about taking an online class, you can find help at the Valley College Help Desk. I may not always be in my office able to help you, but these people are available to come to your aid.

□ Their phone number is (818) 778-5834 □ Their email address is: etudeshelp@lavc.edu.

You can also receive help in person the Computer Lab at BJ103.

A complete listing of times of operation can be found at the website:

<http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/helpdesk.htm>

Making Sure Your Computer is Ready

One of the biggest problems students have in taking this class is with their computer system. There is a link on the left hand side of the Etudes portal that is titled, "System Requirements." Follow the instructions to make sure that your system will work well with the college's online learning system called Etudes. The instructions there include those for the "cache" settings and setting up your "cookies," "java" etc. (don't worry setting this up is easier than it sounds). Your computer will then be ready to go. Follow these instructions and you will experience much less frustration and headaches.

If you are using a Mac, you will notice that the Safari browser will not work well. Instead you will see instructions on downloading the Firefox browser.

Very Important

The first day you can log on is Monday, February 6th, at 8:00 a.m. If you have not logged on and participated in the first discussion by Friday, February 10th, at 11:30 p.m., then I will assume you do not want to take the class. It is just like attending the first day of class. You miss it, you could be dropped. So remember, **you need to log into the class and participate before Friday, February 10th, at 11:30 p.m.**

I am looking forward to meeting all of you online and working with you so we can have a fun, stimulating, and successful Spring semester.

Associate Professor Eric Swelstad

Title List for Cinema 107

- Week 1 Introduction
- Week 2 "*It Happened One Night*" (1934) Dir. F. Capra
- Week 3 "*Double Indemnity*" (1944) Dir. B. Wilder
- Week 4 "*All about Eve*" (1950) Dir. J. Mankiewicz
- Week 5 "*American Beauty*" (1999) Dir. S. Mendes
- Week 6 "*Visions of Light*" (1993) Documentary
- Week 7 "*Raging Bull*" (1980) Dir. M. Scorsese
- Week 8 "*Chinatown*" (1974) Dir. R. Polanski
- Week 9 "*Touch of Evil*" (1958) Dir. O. Welles
- Week 10 "*Cutting Edge: The Magic of Movie Editing*" (2004) Documentary
- Week 11 "*North by Northwest*" (1959) Dir. A. Hitchcock

Week 12 "Once Upon a Time in the West" (1968) Dr.
S. Leone

&

"Amadeus" (1984) Dir. M. Forman

Week 13 "Dog Day Afternoon" (1975) Dir S. Lumet

Week 14 "The Graduate" (1967) Dir. M. Nichols

Week 15 "Citizen Kane" (1941) Dir. O. Welles

Week 16 FINAL FILM PROJECT - Your choice (TBA)