

***Grab the Popcorn! Put on the 3D Glasses! It's Time For . . .***

## **Introduction to Cinema: COMM 274-002**

Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Spring 2020

Cudahy Library Room 318

Instructor: Dann Gire

[dgire@luc.edu](mailto:dgire@luc.edu). 847 650 4227

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

The objectives of this course include an understanding of basic cinema language, observational skills and theoretical/critical background for the study of film genres, aesthetics, history, production and criticism. This immersive, experiential class will use lectures, screenings, discussions and assigned readings to facilitate the analysis of films.

*NOTE:* This syllabus WILL be adjusted based on student feedback forms handed out during our first meeting. It will also be changed to accommodate guest speakers and special events – including potential field trips to see sneak previews. It will be YOUR responsibility to keep up with changes.

### **Course Goals:**

Intended outcomes:

- Dazzle and amaze friends and family with your astute analysis of cinematic works! (You'll acquire the critical and technical vocabulary to describe and analyze cinema in the comfort of your own media room.)
- Beneficial collateral advantages. (You'll improve your critical reading, writing, thinking skills.)
- Be sincerely snobby! (You'll increase your abilities to evaluate cinematic works in light of aesthetic and historic precedents.)
- Win those post-screening arguments with your dates and friends! (You'll increase your ability to articulate and to defend your views, both orally and in writing!)

### **Texts & Screenings:**

Text: LOOKING AT MOVIES: AN INTRODUCTION TO FILM. Sixth edition by Richard Barsam and Dave Monahan.

Articles (supplied via Sakai or emails or printed handouts)

Film Screenings (in class, on reserve in the library, on Sakai or youtube)

### **The Instructor:**

Chicago Daily Herald film critic Dann Gire is a founding director of the Chicago Film Critics Assn. and has served as its president for 22 years. He has won the prestigious Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism in Arts Criticism 10 times, most recently in 2019, the same year he won "Best Film Review" from the Illinois Press Association.

Gire has taught **Speech-Communications** at Eastern Illinois University, **English and Journalism** at William Rainey Harper College, **Journalism** at both Aurora University and Chicago's Columbia College, plus **Business Speaking** at Loyola University Chicago.

At the Daily Herald, he has worked as a government reporter, crime reporter, and Metro Desk reporter assigned to cover the Cook County Criminal Courts. He has been a fill-in talk show host for

WLS-Talk Radio 890 AM, a frequent guest on numerous radio and television broadcasts, and became Fox 32 Chicago TV News' first on-air film critic. Gire holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Speech-Communications from Eastern Illinois University.

Gire serves as the Lay Leader of Our Redeemer's Church in Schaumburg, Ill. Since 2006, Gire and film historian Raymond Benson (author of nine James Bond 007 novels and novelizations) have presented their popular film clip and discussion program "**Dann & Raymond's Movie Club**" around the Chicago area.

### **Attendance**

To assure credit for attendance, please sign in on a provided notepad as you enter class. (We have 49 classmates, so give the instructor's memory cells a break.) You will be expected to participate in class discussions and projects, many of which cannot be replicated out of Room 318. Class participation encourages comprehension and memory retention and makes the class more engaging. Participation includes, but is not limited to, speaking in class, being attentive, taking notes, and asking questions.

If you cannot attend class, please call or e-mail the instructor beforehand. If you have more than four absences during the semester, your final grade will be reduced by a full letter, unless medical documentation proves the necessity of the absence, however, you will still be responsible for missed assignments. Student athletes or others student ambassadors who must miss class because of university business, must provide pertinent, proper documentation for absence; however, they will still be responsible for missed assignments.

*To be clear:* It is unreasonable and unfair for students with absences to expect to receive Class Participation scores similar to those students with perfect or near-perfect attendance, especially when our class meets only once a week. (Consider this: If you miss just two classes, you have missed half a month of instruction, or the equivalent of six classes for students with M/W/F schedules.)

### **Class attendance scores will be negatively affected if a student:**

- Regularly arrives to class late or misses classes
- Sleeps in class and/or demonstrates inattentive behavior
- Doesn't participate in discussions or ask pertinent questions.
- Regularly disrupts class (e.g. noisily leaving screenings, rattling food wrappers, unless popcorn or chocolate covered raisins are involved.)

### **Class attendance scores will be increased when a student:**

- Is attentive in class, takes notes and clearly listens
- Regularly participates in discussions, asks or answers questions
- Communicates with the instructor outside of class when necessary
- Never arrives late or misses classes

### **School of Communication Statement on Academic Integrity**

A basic mission of a university is to search for and to communicate truth as it is honestly perceived. A genuine learning community cannot exist unless this demanding standard is a fundamental tenet of the intellectual life of the community. Students of Loyola University Chicago are expected to know, to respect, and to practice this standard of personal honesty.

Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, and submitting false documents. These examples of academic dishonesty apply to both individual and group assignments.

Academic cheating is a serious act that violates academic integrity. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, such acts as:

- Obtaining, distributing, or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher;
- Providing information to another student during an examination;
- Obtaining information from another student or any other person during an examination;
- Using any material or equipment during an examination without consent of the instructor, or in a manner which is not authorized by the instructor;
- Attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted;
- Taking an examination by proxy. Taking or attempting to take an exam for someone else is a violation by both the student enrolled in the course and the proxy.
- Unauthorized collaboration, or the use in whole or part of another student's work, on homework, lab reports, programming assignments, and any other course work which is completed outside of the classroom;
- Falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences or extensions of deadlines; or
- Any other action that, by omission or commission, compromises the integrity of the academic evaluation process.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of ideas, language, work, or intellectual property of another, either by intent or by negligence, without sufficient public acknowledgement and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. Plagiarism involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes, but is not limited to:

- Submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as Internet, print, CD-ROM, audio, video, and other sources;
- Submitting as one's own another person's unpublished work or examination material;
- Allowing another or paying another to write or research a paper for one's own benefit; or
- Purchasing, acquiring, and using for course credit a written paper.
- Submitting the same work for credit in two or more classes, even if the classes are taken in different semesters. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content for credit in two or more classes, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard.

The above list is not exhaustive. Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty. Any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. A more detailed description of this issue can be found at [https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicintegrity.shtml](https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml) .

Plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will result minimally in the instructor's assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. The instructor may impose a more severe sanction, including a grade of "F" in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported by the instructor to the Associate and Assistant Deans of the School of Communication. Instructors must provide the appropriate information and documentation when they suspect an instance of academic misconduct has occurred. The instructor must also notify the student of the findings and sanction.

The Associate and Assistant Deans of the School of Communication may constitute a hearing board to consider the imposition of sanctions in addition to those imposed by the instructor, including a recommendation of expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. In the case of multiple instances of academic dishonesty, the Dean's office may convene a separate hearing board to review these instances. The student has the right to appeal the decision of the hearing board to the Dean of SOC. If the student is not a member of the SOC, the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled shall be part of the process. Students have the right to appeal the decision of any hearing board and the deans of the two schools will review the appeal together. Their decision is final in all cases except expulsion. The sanction of expulsion for academic dishonesty may be imposed only by the Provost upon recommendation of the dean or deans. Students have a right to appeal any finding of academic dishonesty against them. The procedure for such an appeal can be found at:

[http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg\\_academicgrievance.shtml](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicgrievance.shtml) .

The School of Communication maintains a permanent record of all instances of academic dishonesty. The information in that record is confidential. However, students may be asked to sign a waiver which releases that student's record of dishonesty as a part of the student's application to a graduate or professional school, to a potential employer, to a bar association, or to similar organizations.

So don't plagiarize, okay?

### **Students with Learning Disabilities**

Any student with a learning disability that needs special accommodation during exams or class periods should provide documentation from Services for Students with Disabilities confidentially to the instructor. The instructor will accommodate that student's needs in the best way possible, given the constraints of course content and processes. It is the student's responsibility to plan and meet his/her own needs and assignment due dates.

### **Managing Life Crises and Finding Support**

Should you encounter an unexpected crisis during the semester (e.g., securing food or housing, addressing mental health concerns, managing a financial crisis, and/or dealing with a family emergency, etc.), I strongly encourage you to contact the Office of the Dean of Students by submitting a CARE referral (LUC.edu/csaa) for yourself or a peer in need of support. If you are uncomfortable doing so on your own, please know that I can submit a referral on your behalf – please email me or schedule a meeting with me during office hours. To learn more about the Office of the Dean of Students, please find their websites at LUC.edu/dos or LUC.edu/csaa. Or you may contact them directly at 773-508-8840 and at deanofstudents@luc.edu.

### **Grading and Evaluation**

Reading assignments will be issued from the textbook and other sources.

Students are expected to complete assignments and readings on time. Late coursework will automatically be penalized a letter grade (10%). Semester grades use a 1,000-point scale with the following breakdown:

MidTerm:100 points. Final: 100 points

Classroom Participation: 240 points (contributions in group critiques – 12 classes X 20 points)

Quizzes: 200 points (10 quizzes at 20 points)

“You Be the Critic” essays and analysis: 360 points (12 films X 30 points)

*(Must be prepared on a printed-out Sakai form I will email to class. All tardy submissions will be accepted at half-values through April 15.)*

### **Final grade scale**

1000-940: A 939-900: A- 899-880: B+ 879-830: B 829-800: B- 799-780: C+ 779-730: C 729-700: C- 699-680: D+ 679-640: D 639-600: D- 599-0: F

### **Additional Classroom Policies**

- Students must engage in discussions to maximize learning and final grades.
- All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced and proofread, then submitted in class on paper PLUS emailed to the instructor at [dgire@luc.edu](mailto:dgire@luc.edu) unless otherwise noted. ONLY the printed version will be scored.
- Please turn off all electronic devices. However, laptops may be used for taking notes, not for emailing, updating Facebook, Snapchat or playing Candy Crush.

**Note on Sakai:** Use Firefox as your internet browser when working in Sakai. The quizzes (and Sakai generally) will often malfunction if you use Internet Explorer or Safari as your browser. Other than system-wide failure, “technical difficulties” will not be accepted as an excuse for missed or incomplete assignments.

### **SCHEDULE: (subject to change, please remember)**

#### **Week 1: JAN. 15**

Introduction. Review of syllabus. “You Be the Critic” project explained. Student questionnaire distributed. View “JUNO.” Small group analysis. Greatest opening scenes (if time permits). Reading Assignments: (A) Chapter One in “Looking at Movies” text plus (B) “You Be the Critic” film viewing.

#### **Week 2: JAN. 22 (ALERT! A special sneak preview might happen during this period!)**

WESTERNS. Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Two in “Looking at Movies” text plus (B) “You Be the Critic” film viewing.

#### **Week 3: JAN. 29**

HORROR TALES: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Three in “Looking at Movies” text plus (B) “You Be the Critic” film viewing.

#### **Week 4: FEB. 5**

MUSICALS: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter FOUR in “Looking at Movies” text, (B) “You Be the Critic” film viewing.

#### **Week 5: FEB. 12**

INTERNATIONAL WORKS: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter FIVE in “Looking at Movies” text plus (B) “You Be the Critic” film viewing.

#### **Week 6: FEB. 19**

BIOPICS: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Six in “Looking at Movies” text plus (B) “You Be the Critic” film viewing.

**Week 7:** FEB. 26

MIDTERM EXAMS. Assignment To Be Announced.

**Week 8:** March 4

*SPRING BREAK! SPRING BREAK! SPRING BREAK! **SPRING BREAK!** SPRING BREAK!*

**Week 9:** March 11

FILM NOIR: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Seven in "Looking at Movies" text plus (B) "You Be the Critic" film viewing...

**Week 10:** March 18

THRILLERS/MYSTERY: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Eight "Looking at Movies" text plus (B) "You Be the Critic" film viewing

**Week 11:** March 25

SCIENCE FICTION: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Nine in "Looking at Movies" text plus (B) "You Be the Critic" film viewing.

**Week 12:** April 1

DOCUMENTARIES: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Ten in "Looking at Movies" text plus (B) "You Be the Critic" film viewing.

**Week 13** April 8

FANTASY: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments (A) Chapter Eleven in "Looking at Movies" text plus (B) "You Be the Critic" film viewing.

**Week 14:** April 15

COMEDIES: Intro to genre. Quiz on reading material. Exemplary motion picture presented. Movie elements analysis. Assignments: (A) Reading to Be Announced plus (B) "You Be the Critic" film viewing. NOTE: NO delayed or make-up assignments from excused absences will be accepted after this class. All tardy assignments will be accepted at half-values.)

**Week 15:** April 22

Prep for finals. This period will be used a buffer in the event that one or more class meetings have special guest speakers or we are invited to attend press screenings of Hollywood movies. NO delayed or make-up assignments from excused absences will be accepted.

**FINALS!** Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m. in the library, Room 318.