INSTRUCTOR  
Kevin MacClaren  
kmacclar@ucsc.edu

OFFICE HOURS  
Stevenson 229  
Tuesday 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION  
I cordially invite you to embark on a journey to interpret the language of film as seen through the all-encompassing prism of self and society. During class, we will view films thematically and then hold discussions on subjects that range from existentialism and absurdism to reality and perception, sexism and racism, media and politics, dystopias, what’s to come in our digital futures and what we can do about it. We will contemplate how our selves shape society and, conversely, how society comes to shape our selves.

In the process, there will be assigned four essays to help us dive deeper into our thoughts, ideas, and interpretations of the films we view based on issues we discuss in class. At the end of quarter, we will have learned ways of seeing the language of film through watching movies, course handouts, class talks, readings, and writing assignments. These strategies will involve acquiring skills in visual analysis while also applying the ideas in the texts we read to the films we view and then using small and large group discussions to elaborate upon them. The issues we cover are wide-ranging and I encourage students to pursue their own intellectual interests within the large scope of the themes and ideas we cover throughout the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY  
Your ideas will be taken seriously as your own. Any submission of another’s work as your own is a serious breach of values in an intellectual community. Compromise in academic integrity could result in failing the course and/or expulsion from the university.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES  
If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to the instructor in person outside of class (e.g., office hours) within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact the DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY), or http://drc.ucsc.edu/ for more information on the requirements and/or process.
ATTENDANCE
Attendance is paramount for achieving a passing grade. Missing a class is an academic disservice to both you and your colleagues’ educational experience. You must attend every class meeting, lecture, and office hour appointment. A maximum of one-missed class is permissible throughout the session for cases of illness and/or other miscellaneous reasons. **Having more than one absence jeopardizes your ability to pass the course.**

EVALUATION/GRADE
Grades will be based on the breakdown below. Explanations of each component follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect of Course</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Portfolio (4 Essays)</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
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PORTFOLIO OF FORMAL PAPERS (70%)
The act of writing provides us with an integral experience of getting to know ourselves more deeply through increasing the depth of our thoughts and ideas on paper. Essays will vary in length depending on the assignment. Papers must integrate textual and visual analysis and abide by MLA guidelines. Individual assignments will be handed out a week prior to the due date during the session.

Participation (30%)
Your participation in our discussions is priceless and your unique perspective plays an indispensable role in our collaborative learning process. It also comprises a sizable portion of your grade. Participation that displays thoughtful analysis of the assigned texts and films is expected at each class meeting. Attendance, completing course assignments, contributing in small groups during class counts as participation.

WEEK ONE

**Tuesday 6/27**
Class Introductions
Film – *Run Lola Run*

**Thursday 6/29**
Reading Assignment – “The Myth of Sisyphus,” Albert Camus
Viewing Assignment – “How to Make Hard Choices,” TED
https://www.ted.com/talks/ruth_chang_how_to_make_hard_choices
Film – *Mr. Nobody*
WEEK TWO

*Tuesday 7/4 – No Class 4th of July Holiday
Viewing Assignment – Whale Rider (this can be streamed on Netflix or a course reserve copy can be borrowed at McHenry Library, if you can’t get a hold of the film, please come see me)

Thursday 7/6
First Essay Due
Film – Do the Right Thing
Reading Assignment “In Critical Condition”

WEEK THREE

Tuesday 7/11
Second Essay Due
Reading Assignment – Amusing Ourselves to Death, Neil Postman
Film – Network

Thursday 7/13
Reading Assignment – Brave New World Revisited, Aldous Huxley
Film – No

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday 7/18
Third Essay Due
Reading Assignment – Democracy Inc., Sheldon Wolin
Film – The Hunger Games

Thursday 7/20
Reading Assignment – Virtually Human, Martine Rothblatt
“Computers, Caves, and Oracles: Neo and Socrates,”
William Irwin
Film – The Matrix

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday 4/25
Reading Assignment – They Know Everything About You, Robert Scheer
Film – Snowden

Thursday 4/27 (Last day of Class)
Final Essay Due!
Film – Captain Fantastic