Self and Society Through Film

STEV 80G Summer 2018 Session II

INSTRUCTOR

Kevin MacClaren
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OFFICE HOURS

McHenry Library Entrance Lounge Tuesdays 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout this five-week session this course will provide students with a framework of conceptual tools on how to interpret the self in the world as well as media across a range of different platforms such as film, text, and the Internet. We will examine ideas and different approaches towards navigating a 21st century technological world where we as individuals and as a society possess a near infinite amount of information at our proverbial fingertips at the peril of what seems to be a loosening grip on truth and a functioning public discourse.

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. You must attend every class meeting. 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.

Aspect of Course	**Percent of Grade**
Essay #1	30%
Essay #2	30%
Reflections and Freewrites	25%
Participation/Contribution	15%

ESSAYS (60%)

The act of writing provides us with an integral experience of getting to know ourselves and our subject more deeply through increasing the depth of our thoughts and ideas on paper. Essays will vary in length depending on the assignment. Essays must integrate textual *and* visual analysis. Individual assignments will be handed out at least one week prior to the due date during the session.

REFLECTION PAPERS AND FILM FREE WRITES (25%)

These are informal writing assignments to chart your intellectual journey throughout the course. From these you will mine ideas for conversations, discussions, and essays. Please bring your assigned reflection papers and film free-writes to every class meeting. I am flexible to the form in which these papers are created, though I advise you to keep them in either a single notebook, composition book, folder, or word document on your lap tap for easy access. Film free writes will be written usually in class and will consist of jotting down your thoughts for roughly five minutes after each film viewing. Reflection papers and film free writes will be graded for completeness and will be due collectively on Tuesday, August 28.

PARTICIPATION (15%)

Your participation and unique perspective on the ideas covered throughout the course plays an indispensable role in our collaborative learning process and inquiry. 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, ad-hoc presentations, contributing in small and large group discussions, office-hour visits, and active listening during class counts as participation.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

Tuesday 7/31
Film – *Run Lola Run* (FW #1)

Thursday 8/2
Reading Assignment – "The Myth of Sisyphus," Albert Camus 441-463 (RP #1)
Film – *Mr. Nobody* - (FW #2)

WEEK TWO

Tuesday 8/7
Reading Assignment – The Myth of Sisyphus," Albert Camus 463 - 492 (RP #2)
Film - *Mr. Nobody* - (FW #3)

Thursday 8/9
Viewing Assignment – "How Language Shapes the Way We Think" Lera Boroditsky
https://www.ted.com/talks/lera_boroditsky_how_language_shapes_the_way_we_think
Reading Assignment – *Amusing Ourselves to Death,* Neil Postman Part I pp xix-80 (RP #3).
Film – *The Arrival* (FW #4)

WEEK THREE

Tuesday 8/14
Essay #1 Due
Reading Assignment – *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman Ch 6-7 (RP# 4)
Film – *Network* (FW #5)

Thursday 8/16
Reading Assignment – *1984* George Orwell *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley and
National Geographic "They Are Watching You" Robert Draper (RP#5)
Film – *Snowden* (FW #6

WEEK FOUR

Tuesday 8/21
Reading Assignment – *Brave New World Revisited*, Aldous Huxley (RP #6)
Film - *No* (FW #7)

Thursday 8/23
Reading Assignment – *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman Ch 9-11
Viewing Assignment – "What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains" Nicholas Carr
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PF1JgIWbSlQ
Interpreting the Medium of all Media - The Internet (RP #7)

WEEK FIVE

Tuesday 828/25
Film – *Captain Fantastic* (FW #8)
No Reading Assignments - Work on Essay #2

Thursday 8/30 (Last day of Class)
Essay #2 Due
Film – *The Matrix*