I. INTRODUCTION

A. This course when completed with a passing grade, fulfills three semester hours credit. It counts toward fulfillment of the Performing Arts requirement in many performing arts related fields and is required for most Theatre Arts degrees. Various components of Cinema are explored.

B. This course will fulfill the Humanities requirement at Central Texas College and is a recommended elective in some areas. Intro to Motion Picture Art is a foundation course for all Theatre majors and serves as a general elective for any student.

C. This course is related to all Theatre & Cinematic Arts occupations and to any liberal arts study field.

D. Prerequisite: none. The focus of this course will vary from time to time, but will be an in-depth look at a specific aspect of motion picture art; i.e. Individual Auteur Directors, African American cinema, Asian film studies, docudrama, biographies of great historical figures, dramatic structure and screenwriting, etc.

E. In support of the objectives of the Texas core curriculum, this course provides significant exercise of students’ critical thinking, communication skills, teamwork and personal responsibility. These objectives form a foundation of intellectual and practical skills that are essential for learning.
   - Critical thinking skills include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
   - Communication skills include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual media.
   - Teamwork includes the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Investigate thematic elements in film.

8/18/2014
B. Demonstrate an understanding and identify various cinematic genres.

C. Demonstrate an understanding of dramatic structure as it pertains to screenwriting.

D. Demonstrate an understanding and identify cinematic and filmmaking techniques.

E. Compose critical analysis relative to filmmaking.

F. Identify and apply screenwriting techniques towards the completion of an original screenplay.

G. C1, C4, C5, C6, C7, C14, F1, F2, F5, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. The instructional materials identified for this course are viewable through www.ctcd.edu/books

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Film Analysis: each student will compose and type two critical analyses utilizing proper writing techniques. The selected films will be approved by the instructor.

B. Research Paper: each student will compose & type a research style biography on a selected person from film history.

C. Reading Assignments: students are expected to read all assigned work. Text pages will be announced and are included in the course outline.

D. Final Project: Students will work on their Final Project – developing an original screenplay - throughout the semester. Deadlines for each section of the final project must be met and students are expected to bring all necessary materials to class.

E. Film Screenings: a number of films will be viewed during the semester. Students are responsible for the content of all films screened.

F. Class Performance:

1. Students are expected to attend every class, be on time, and remain throughout the class.
2. It is the responsibility of the student to make up any work missed. An acceptable written excuse must be submitted and approved in order to submit exam projects.
3. Students are expected to maintain civility, courtesy, and scholastic honesty.
4. Students are expected to participate fully in class discussions.
V. EXAMINATIONS

In addition to the daily work, there will be two examinations. These will be announced in advance.

A. Mid-term: comprehensive
B. Final: comprehensive

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>450 = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Analysis(2)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>400 = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Response</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>350 = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>300 = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. NOTES & ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS

A. **Withdrawal from course:** If a student is unable to continue in the class, it is his/her responsibility to properly withdraw.

B. **Administrative Withdrawal:** Students may be administratively withdrawn from the class when their absences exceed a total of four (4) class meetings in a sixteen week semester. Three tardies will count as one absence.

C. **Incomplete Grade:** The college catalogue states, “an incomplete grade may be given in those cases where the student has completed the majority of the course work, but, because of personal illness, death in the family, or military orders, the student is unable to complete all the requirements for the course… It is the responsibility of the student to arrange with the instructor…to complete the course and change the “I” grade within the specified time.”

D. The student will be present and on time for all oral reports & exams. Makeups will only be allowed with a documented excuse. Students without an excused absence will be given a zero for the assignment/exam.

E. The Final Exam will be administered on the scheduled day and time as published in the schedule bulletin.
F. **Topic Approval:** topics chosen by the student for each assignment must be approved by the instructor.

G. **Return of Graded Assignments:** written feedback of oral reports & play reports will not be returned until all students have completed said assignment.

H. **Audience Behavior:** being a good audience member is essential to understanding the nature of film. No cell phones, beepers, or other distractions will be permitted during film screenings.

I. **Grading:** grading is highly subjective in film courses due to the artistic nature.

J. Disability Support Services provide services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Explore the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

**VIII. COURSE OUTLINE**

A. **Part 1:** Character and Structure in Cinema
   1. **Learning Outcome:** Upon successful completion of this unit the student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the progression of themes in dramatic structure, theme, and demonstrate the ability to define premise/character in regards to story structure and the screenplay. Genres and sub-genres will be explored and students will become familiar with common film tropes.

   2. **Learning Activities:**
      a. Instructor lecture & demonstration
      b. Class discussion
      c. Reading assignments: handouts
      d. 1st film analysis
      e. Debrief of above

      (C1, C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14)

   3. **Equipment & Materials:** as needed

   4. **Audio Visual Aids:**
      - *Clue*
      - *Star Wars*
      - *Casablanca*
      - *Little Miss Sunshine*
Lars and the Real Girl
Firefly (selections)
Die Hard

B. **Part 2:** Theme & Narrative Structure

1. **Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will demonstrate an understanding of how a film tells its story. Both the filmmaker’s concept and the director’s expression will be explored. Students will focus on story mapping/plotting and create a story outline/beat sheet for their screenplay ideas.

2. **Learning Activities:**
   a. Instructor lecture & demonstration
   b. Class discussion
   c. Reading assignments: Handouts
   d. 1st film analysis
   e. Debrief of above

   (C1, C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14)

3. **Equipment & Materials:**
   as needed

4. **Audio Visual Aids:**
   Groundhog Day
   Moonrise Kingdom
   North by Northwest
   Bladerunner
   Tropic Thunder
   Live Free, Die Hard

C. **Part 3:** Cinematic techniques, visual design, cinematography, director’s style. Students will revise their screenplay outlines, and write the first act of their screenplays. Scenes will be read and discussed in class, with students expected to take part in creative and critical discussion.

1. **Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this unit the learner will be able to identify filming styles, along with successful screenplay structure and apply to his/her own screenplay/visual lexicon.

2. **Learning Activities:**
   a. Instructor lecture
   b. Class discussion
   c. Reading assignments: Handouts
d. 2nd film analysis
e. Debrief of above

(C1, C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14)

3. Equipment & materials
   as necessary

4. Audio-Visuals
   Memento
   No Country for Old Men
   Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
   Chinatown