THTR 1590 - History of Motion Pictures

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 07, CRN 42046,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Trevor Ivan

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Public Instructor Information

Professor: Trevor Ivan
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Course Description

1590. History of Motion Pictures. The history of the motion picture from its beginnings to the present, with emphasis on the milestones of film as a performing art. Viewing of significant films from various periods and countries. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Film History: An Introduction, 2025 Release	Kristin Thompson and David Bordwell	

This course is part of the “First Day Inclusive Access” model where the cost of your Smart Book (“Film History: An Introduction” by McGraw-Hill Education) with Connect, an online homework system, has been significantly discounted and is included in the cost of your tuition. If you would like a physical copy of the textbook, you can purchase it at a discounted rate through the University Bookstore or directly from the link in Connect.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	READ: The Course Syllabus	Welcome to the Course	Syllabus Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 8/30
8/31	READ: Chapter 1 - The Invention and Early Years of the Cinema, 1180s -1904 WATCH: A Personal Journey with Martin Scorsese through American Movies	The Invention of Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 9/6
9/7	READ: Chapter 2 - The International Expansion of the Cinema, 1905 – 1912 WATCH: The Great Train Robbery and other Early Short Films	The Expansion of Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 9/13
9/14	READ: Chapter 3 - National Cinemas, Hollywood Classicism, and World War 1, 1913 – 1919 WATCH: Broken Blossoms by DW Griffith (1919)	World War I and National Cinemas	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 9/20
9/21	READ: Chapter 5 - Germany in the 1920s WATCH: Metropolis by Fritz Lang (1927)	German Expressionism	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 9/27

9/28	READ: Chapter 7 - The Late Silent Era in Hollywood, 1920- 1928 WATCH: City Lights by Charlie Chaplin (1931)	The Late Silent Era	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 10/4
10/5	READ: Chapter 9 - The Introduction of Sound WATCH: Stagecoach by John Ford (1939)	The Introduction of Sound	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 10/11
10/12	READ: Chapter 10 - The Hollywood Studio System, 1930-1945 WATCH: Meet John Doe by Frank Capra (1941)	The Hollywood Studio System	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 10/18
10/19	READ: Chapter 15 - American Cinema in the Postwar Era, 1945-1960 WATCH: Royal Wedding by Stanley Donen (1951)	American Postwar Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 10/25
10/26	READ: Chapter 19 - Art Cinema and the Idea of Authorship WATCH: The Man with the Golden Arm by Otto Preminger (1955)	Art Cinema and Authorship	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 11/1
11/2	READ: Chapter 22 – Hollywood's Fall and Rise: 1960–1980 WATCH: 2001: A Space Odyssey by Stanley Kubrick (1968)	Hollywood's Fall and Rise	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 11/8
11/9	READ: Chapter 26 - Continental and Subcontinental Cinemas Since 1970 WATCH: The Cyclist by Mohsen Makhmalbaf (1987)	Continental Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 11/15
11/16	READ: Chapter 27 - Cinema Rising: Pacific Asia and Oceania Since 1970 WATCH: Raise the Red Lantern by Zhang Yimou (1991)	Pacific Cinema	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 11/22
11/23	READ: Chapter 28 - American Cinema and the Entertainment Economy, the 1980s and After WATCH: Lost in Translation by Sofia Coppola (2003)	The Entertainment Economy	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 11/29
11/30	READ: Chapter 29 - Toward a Global Film Culture WATCH: Moonlight by Barry Jenkins (2016)	Toward a Global Film Culture	Quiz & Discussion Post Due: Sunday 12/6
12/7	N/A	FINALS WEEK (NO FINAL EXAM)	N/A

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.