

Huron University College
Philosophy 4991F Section 550
Problems in Philosophy: Aesthetic Problems about Movies
Wednesday 8:30 AM-9:30 AM; Friday 8:30 AM-10:30 AM – HUC W18
Course Outline -- Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. D. Conter

Office: V 131

Office Hours: Tuesday 12 PM-1 PM, Wednesday 9:30 AM-10:30 AM

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Description

This course falls into two parts of unequal length. Both parts focus on the views of Noel Carroll, probably the best-known of contemporary philosophers of art

The first, shorter part will be given over to an examination of a variety of issues connected with the criticism of artworks in general. Issues to be discussed include: whether the main function of criticism in the arts is interpretive or evaluative; the nature of artistic value and its relation to the classification of artworks; the nature of those aspects of criticism in the arts which are not directly evaluative; and the possibility – or not – of evaluating artworks objectively.

The second part of the course will involve a narrowing of focus. One art in particular – film – will be considered at length. Topics to be examined will include the idea of an artistic medium; the difference between seeing a thing and seeing a filmed representation of the thing; the shot; cinematic sequencing and narration; the relations between film and viewer emotion; and, finally, the evaluation of films in particular.

Course Objectives

Students should come to master a number of different kinds of theories about the arts in general, and to appreciate the difficulties of applying the theories to an individual – and fairly new – art: moviemaking. They will also come to understand what method might be used to provide a comparative assessment of competing theories all of which are supposed to apply the same domain. Students should also gain some familiarity with the contemporary philosophy of art and with the range of the art of movie-making.

Course Method

Lecture; with professor/student and student/professor question/answer exchanges.

Texts

Noel Carroll, *On Criticism* (New York: Routledge, 2009.)

Noel Carroll, *The Philosophy of Motion Pictures* (Malden, Mass.: Blackwell, 2009.)

Assessment:

Students' grades will be determined on the basis of two 5-6 page (double-spaced) essays and a three-hour final examination. The first of these essays is worth 30% of the final grade, and the second of them is worth 35% of the final grade. The final examination is worth 35% of the final grade

1. **The due dates for the essays are Friday, October 10, and Friday, November 14..** Hard copies of the essays **MUST** be in class on those days, and – additionally – the essays must be submitted on owl.uwo.ca by noon on those days. Topics will be given out two weeks before the due date. No outside research will be required.

Under no circumstances will extensions be granted. Students who fail to submit an essay on time must consult the Academic Counsellor IMMEDIATELY. In such a case, if there is a recommendation from the Academic Counsellor, the remaining items of assessment will be re-weighted

2. The **final exam** will be written during the final exam period at a date and time specified by the University.

Students who for any reason at all miss the scheduled final exam and are granted permission to write the special final on the date specified by the College must understand that both the content and the format of the special final may be different from the regularly scheduled final exam.

Syllabus

Week 1

On Criticism, Introduction

Week 2

On Criticism, chapter 1

Week 3

On Criticism, chapter 2

Week 4

On Criticism, chapter 3.

Week 5

On Criticism, chapter 4

Week 6

The Philosophy of Motion Pictures, chapter 1

Week 7

The Philosophy of Motion Pictures, chapter 2

Week 8

The Philosophy of Motion Pictures, chapter 3

Week 9

The Philosophy of Motion Pictures, chapter 4

Week 10

The Philosophy of Motion Pictures, chapter 5

Week 11

The Philosophy of Motion Pictures, chapter 6

Week 12

The Philosophy of Motion Pictures, chapter 7



Appendix to Course Outlines

Prerequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Conduct of Students in Classes, Lectures, and Seminars

Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Students can avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If a student is late, or knows that he/she will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

Please see the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* at:

<http://www.huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/StudentDiscipline>

Technology

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited to, laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Academic Accommodation for Medical/Non-Medical Grounds

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading]

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the instructor.

For non-medical grounds or for medical grounds when work represents less than 10% of the overall grade for the course, students seeking academic accommodation must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the instructor.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Statement on Academic Integrity

The International Centre for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as "a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action." (CAI Fundamental Values Project, 1999).

A lack of academic integrity is indicated by such behaviours as the following:

- Cheating on tests;
- Fraudulent submissions online;
- Plagiarism in papers submitted (including failure to cite and piecing together unattributed sources);
- Unauthorized resubmission of course work to a different course;

Helping someone else cheat;
Unauthorized collaboration;
Fabrication of results or sources;
Purchasing work and representing it as one's own.

Academic Integrity: Importance and Impact

Being at university means engaging with a variety of communities in the pursuit and sharing of knowledge and understanding in ways that are clear, respectful, efficient, and productive. University communities have established norms of academic integrity to ensure responsible, honest, and ethical behavior in the academic work of the university, which is best done when sources of ideas are properly and fully acknowledged and when responsibility for ideas is fully and accurately represented.

In the academic sphere, unacknowledged use of another's work or ideas is not only an offence against the community of scholars and an obstacle to academic productivity. It may also be understood as fraud and may constitute an infringement of legal copyright.

A university is a place for fulfilling one's potential and challenging oneself, and this means rising to challenges rather than finding ways around them. The achievements in an individual's university studies can only be fairly evaluated quantitatively through true and honest representation of the actual learning done by the student. Equity in assessment for all students is ensured through fair representation of the efforts by each.

Acting with integrity at university constitutes a good set of practices for maintaining integrity in later life. Offences against academic integrity are therefore taken very seriously as part of the university's work in preparing students to serve, lead, and innovate in the world at large.

A university degree is a significant investment of an individual's, and the public's, time, energies, and resources in the future, and habits of academic integrity protect that investment by preserving the university's reputation and ensuring public confidence in higher education.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will suffer consequences ranging from a grade reduction to failure in the course to expulsion from the university. In addition, a formal letter documenting the offence will be filed in the Dean's Office, and this record of the offence will be retained in the Dean's Office for the duration of the student's academic career at Huron University College.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for

the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Policy on Special Needs

Students who require special accommodation for tests and/or other course components must make the appropriate arrangements with the Student Development Centre (SDC). Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/?requesting_acc

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Class Cancellations

In the event of a cancellation of class, every effort will be made to post that information on the Huron website, <http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo> (“Class Cancellations”).

Accessibility

Huron University College strives at all times to provide its goods and services in a

way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities. We are also committed to giving people with disabilities the same opportunity to access our goods and services and allowing them to benefit from the same services, in the same place as, and in a similar way to, other customers. We welcome your feedback about accessibility at Huron. Information about how to provide feedback is available at: <http://www.huronuc.ca/AccessibilityInfo>

Mental Health @ Western

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Program and Academic Counselling

Philosophy students registered at Huron who require advice about modules and courses in Philosophy should contact Dr. S. D'Arcy, Chair – sdarcy@huron.uwo.ca Students should contact Academic Counselling on other academic matters. See the Academic Counselling website for information on services offered.

<http://huronuc.ca/CurrentStudents/StudentLifeandSupportServices/CounselorsCounsellingServices>