

**The Critical Essay: Film
CTY Course Syllabus**

Texts: Corrigan, Timothy. *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*
Prince, Stephen R. *Movies and Meaning: An Introduction to Film*

Day 1	Subject	Activity
Morning	Introductions Pretest Film introduction Critical writing Creative project	Name game, peer interview Pretest Barthes, "Leaving the Movie Theatre" Essay modes, alternatives to the five paragraph essay, formal vs. personal voice, Chapter 1(Corrigan) Film groups, brainstorming
Afternoon	Analysis	Scene analysis: openings
Evening	Film criticism/film theory writing	Chapters 11 and 12 (Prince) Movie review 1

Day 2	Subject	Activity
Morning	Criticism/theory Film criticism: preparation	Discuss readings, share reviews Chapter 2 (Corrigan)
Afternoon	Analysis	View Chaplin's <i>City Lights</i> , write responses
Evening (lab)	Film structure Film criticism Writing	Chapter 1 (Prince), Krakauer, "Establishment of Physical Existence," Perez, "The Material Ghost" Review comparison

Day 3	Subject	Activity
Morning	Analysis	Scene analysis: <i>City Lights</i> , share responses, discuss readings, share review comparisons, read Balasz, "The Close-Up"
Afternoon	Essay 1 assigned Descriptive writing Creative project	Brainstorm and prewrite The Nightmare Date Film synopsis
Evening	Film criticism Writing	Chapter 3(Corrigan) Rough draft essay 1

Day 4	Subject	Activity
Morning	Film criticism Creative project	Discuss readings, scene analysis: mis-en-scene Scripts
Afternoon	Peer review Descriptive writing	Workshop procedure, workshop essay 1 The Fish-tank of Rage
Evening (lab)	Film structure Writing	Chapters 2 and 3 (Prince) Revise essay 1

Day 5	Subject	Activity
Morning	Analysis	Discuss readings, view Curtiz's <i>Casablanca</i>
Afternoon	Scene analysis Style Essay 2 assigned	<i>Casablanca</i> Cliché exercise: movie clichés Brainstorm and prewrite
Evening	Film structure Writing	Chapter 4 (Prince), Ellis, "Stars as a Cinematic Phenomenon," Ray, "The Thematic Paradigm" Rough draft essay 2

Day 6	Subject	Activity
Morning	Analysis Creative project	Discuss readings, scene analysis: acting Set designs
Afternoon	Peer review	Workshop essay 2: small groups and full class
Evening (lab)	Film structure Writing	Chapter 5 (Prince) Revise essay 2

Day 7	Subject	Activity
Morning	Analysis Film theory	Discuss readings, view Hitchcock's <i>Rear Window</i> Wollen, "The Auteur Theory," Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"
Afternoon	Scene analysis Essay 3 assigned	<i>Rear Window</i> Brainstorm and prewrite
Evening	Film structure Writing	Chapter 7 (Prince) Rough draft essay 3

Day 8	Subject	Activity
Morning	Understanding narrative Creative project	Discuss readings, exercises: Index Card Narratives, Exquisite Corpse, read/discuss O'Brien, "On the Rainy River," Twain, "The Turning Point" Storyboards
Afternoon	Peer review Style	Workshop essay 3 Repetition vs. Repetitious
Evening (lab)	Film criticism Writing	Chapter 4(sg) Revise essay 3

Day 9	Subject	Activity
Morning	Analysis	View Kubrick's <i>Dr. Strangelove</i> , scene analysis, discuss reading, writing: 4 approaches
Afternoon	Analysis Essay 4 assigned	Scene analysis: dramatic tension/climax Brainstorm and prewrite
Evening	Film theory Visual literacy Writing	Comolli, "Cinema and Ideology" Berger, "Ways of Seeing 1" Rough draft essay 4

Day 10	Subject	Activity
Morning	Film and Ideology Creative project	Discuss readings Framing scenes/sequences
Afternoon	Peer review	Workshop essay 4: small groups and full class
Evening (lab)	Visual Literacy Writing	Berger, "Ways of Seeing 3," Rose, "The Good Eye" Revise essay 4

Day 11	Subject	Activity
Morning	Style	The Sentence Olympics
Afternoon	Visual Literacy analysis	Discuss readings Scene analysis: resolution
Evening	Visual Literacy	Rose, "Content Analysis," Semiology, chapter 8 (Prince)

Day 12	Subject	Activity
Morning	Analysis	View Kirosova's <i>Throne of Blood</i> , discuss readings
Afternoon	Analysis	Scene analysis
Evening	Criticism Writing	Excerpts from <i>Signs of Life</i> : examples of critical writing Movie Review 2

Day 13	Subject	Activity
Morning (lab)	Criticism Revision	Discuss readings Read chapter 5(sg), Revise essays and reviews for final portfolio
Afternoon	Creative project	Prepare for film presentation
Evening (lab)	Revision	Revise for final portfolio

Day 14	Subject	Activity
Morning	Post-test Creative project	Post-test Presentations
Afternoon	Final portfolio	Presentations
Evening	Final portfolio	Presentations

Day 15	Subject	Activity
Morning	Conclusion	Final thoughts, class party
Afternoon	Ceremony/goodbye	Ceremony/goodbye
Evening		