

# MCF 40 — Film: The Creative Medium

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## Course Overview

<b>Course</b>	MCF 4000 — Film: The Creative Medium
<b>Credits</b>	3
<b>Prerequisite / Corequisite</b>	[None / as listed by department]
<b>Modality</b>	[Online asynchronous / Online synchronous / In person / Hybrid]
<b>Instructor</b>	[Name, title, and contact information]
<b>Office Hours</b>	[Days / times / location or virtual link]
<b>Course Platform</b>	[Brightspace or other LMS]
<b>Term / Section</b>	[Semester, year, and section number]
<b>Textbook</b>	DROPBOX PROVIDE TO FACULTY

## Course Description

To recognize film as a creative art, the historical, social, psychological, and aesthetic elements of selected films are studied as illustrations of this creative force.

Students examine how films are made and how cinematic language produces meaning through close viewing, discussion, and analytical writing.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an awareness of the scope of film and explain what is meant by cinematic language.
2. Produce analytical writing that clarifies how film uses its formal elements to create an integrated art form.
3. Determine and discuss the effectiveness of film as a cultural and social force.
4. Study the major elements of film form, including story and plot, mise-en-scène, acting, cinematography, editing, and sound.
5. Develop an understanding of filmmaking technologies and production systems used in major motion pictures and episodic television.
6. Develop an appreciation of film history and major milestones in film technology and storytelling around the world.

## Attendance and Participation

In online asynchronous sections, attendance may be measured through academically related activity in the LMS. Students should engage with the module materials, complete the required activities, and submit their work by the stated deadlines. Instructors should customize this section to reflect the assigned modality.

## Methods of Teaching

The course may be delivered through readings, lectures, slideshows, guided viewing, study guides, module journals, skills labs, discussions, and essays. Instruction should balance independent learning with meaningful instructor feedback and clear course pacing.

## Evaluation and Grading

- Module journaling — 25%
- Skills labs — 25%
- Midterm essay — 25%
- Final essay — 25%

## Course Learning Activities

- Module journals: short analytical responses connecting course concepts to assigned films, clips, readings, or lectures.
- Skills labs: brief applied-analysis activities emphasizing observation, evidence, timestamps, and technique.
- Midterm and final essays: extended analytical writing requiring clear claims, evidence, and interpretation.

## Skills Lab Format

Skills labs may be completed as short 4–6-slide micro-decks or equivalent text-based submissions. Students typically work from one selected feature film and use precise timestamps as evidence.

- Key terms and concept accuracy
- Interpretive claim
- Evidence supported by timestamps
- Explanation of how the technique shapes meaning or viewer response
- Reflection or alternative reading

## Late Work and Communication

Section instructors should state clear expectations for weekly work, major assignments, extensions, and response time to student messages.

## Recommended Areas of Study

- Cinematic language and close viewing
- Story, plot, and narrative structure
- Mise-en-scène and performance
- Cinematography, editing, and sound
- Film history, technology, and production systems
- Film as a cultural and social force

## Suggested Section Schedule Framework

- Weeks 1–2: course introduction, cinematic language, and close viewing
- Weeks 3–4: story, plot, performance, and mise-en-scène
- Weeks 5–6: cinematography and editing
- Weeks 7–8: sound, style, and interpretation
- Weeks 9–10: film history, technology, and production systems
- Weeks 11–12: film as cultural and social force; synthesis activities
- End of term: midterm and final essay deadlines as scheduled by section instructor

## Academic Integrity and AI Use

Students must follow college academic integrity standards. Plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, recycled or purchased work, fabricated sources, and misrepresentation of authorship are prohibited. If artificial intelligence tools are permitted for limited purposes such as brainstorming or outlining, instructors should require transparent disclosure and prohibit the submission of AI-generated work as original student analysis.

## Accessibility, Religious Observances, and Student Support

- Students needing accommodations should work with the appropriate college office and share approved documentation with the instructor.
- Reasonable accommodations for religious observances should be arranged in advance whenever possible.
- Technical support and LMS access information should be customized for the active section.