

HON 3173-H01 HONORS SEMINAR IN FINE ARTS

1939: A Banner Year for Stage and Screen

T/R: 12:30-1:45 3 credit hours Spring 2020

Room 401 (Forum Room) - Griffis Hall

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2-3 p.m. and by appointment

Required Materials:

The course will involve viewing and discussing films and reading and discussing plays. In preparation, the following films and play scripts are placed on Reserve at the Access Services Desk through our campus library: Films: *Stagecoach*; *Wuthering Heights*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; and *Gone with the Wind*; and Play scripts: *The Man Who Came to Dinner*; *The Time of Your Life*; *Life with Father*; and *Morning's at Seven*. Each student is responsible for viewing the films and reading the plays prior to the discussions in class.

Description:

The course provides the student a background in America's film and theatre from the year 1939. Emphasizing the social, cultural, political, and economic significances of that year, the course uses representative films and plays against a background of the 'world stage'. The honors course can count towards a film minor credit. Upon completion of the course, a student will

- understand the historical, social, and cultural influences that led to creating these representative films and plays of 1939,
- analyze values through films and plays as each pertains to race, gender, and sexuality,
- identify distinct features of film and play production,
- participate in a public presentation as it pertains to a film or a play.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

Students are expected to be present for every class meeting, scheduled activities outside of class, and to participate in class discussions and activities. Whether or not a student has a specific oral or written assignment, s/he is expected to be in attendance to provide a helpful, critical audience for others and to learn from analysis, observation and participation.

It is important that you make every effort to be on time for class since entering class late causes disruption for others. Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class period and will be a part of the overall grade. For this course, 0-2 absences =A; 3-4 absences=B; 5-6=C; 7-8=D; 9+=F. Tardiness is also counted: 1-3 tardies will count as one absence, 4-6 tardies=2 absences, etc.

Students are also expected to deliver their work on assigned dates, which will be determined in advance. A student who misses class on a date s/he is assigned to give a presentation will be allowed to make it up (if it can be made up) by giving the professor an excuse from an off-campus physician or dentist or the obituary published after the death of a member of the immediate family (spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling). The campus Health Center will give students a copy of their appointment time. Students should be prepared to deliver the assignment on the date they return to class (or an assigned date agreed on with the professor) with the excuse or obituary. A student who misses class on an assigned day without a justifiable excuse will receive a zero for that assignment. All documentation of a missed class needs to be turned in to the professor on the day the student returns to class.

If a student foresees a conflict with an assigned date, it is the student's responsibility to "switch" with another student on a different date and inform the professor of the change. If this is not possible, arrangements will need to be made with the professor. It is not the professor's policy to allow students to make up their work because they are unprepared or they simply missed class. Assignment dates are given far in advance to allow everyone to prepare.

Class Participation

As a seminar course, each student is expected to view/read assignments prior to the first scheduled discussion of the material. While the material may not be thoroughly covered during the recitation period, it is still an important input for the student and will be included in class discussions and written work. The attitude of the student toward class assignments, his/her attitude and consistent participation in class discussions, and in activities outside of class with other class members will be factors in the evaluation of the student's grade.

Class Assignments

Each student will prepare to lead/co-lead two class discussions: one for a film and one for a play covered this semester. Passages read/seen from the plays/films will be accompanied by examples reflecting the time period, the culture, beliefs and philosophies, political, and religious ideals, and the 'world stage' of the time. A written outline with source materials, which can also be used as speaking not reading notes, will be emailed or distributed to the class members with a hard copy to the professor on the day of the presentation. ALL STUDENTS will bring in at least one question for class discussion. Students will sign up immediately for a film and a play which are included in the syllabus. Grading will be done on the materials presented, leadership qualities in managing the discussion, research, and the written outline.

Each student will take 10 quizzes this semester. These will be announced ahead of time. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped from the overall quiz score.

As part of the honors college Orators program, each student will attend an official university event on Wednesday, February 19th at 2 p.m. in the Forum Room. Dr. Denise James from the University of Dayton will be speaking on "An Imperfect Person—Called Hero". Attendance will be taken and information from the lecture may prove to be helpful to students in future course assignments.

Each student will turn in a research paper (5-7 pages, 3 sources) by March 5th dealing with an aspect of one of the films covered this semester. This could be an expansion of class discussion, an expansion of a class presentation, or an-in-or out-of-class activity. Specific topics will be discussed with the professor prior to beginning the research.

Each student will perform a scene with a partner(s) selected from one of the plays discussed this semester and approved by the professor. Scenes will be performed in class the week of April 7-9.

Each student will present a final public presentation on Monday, April 20th. This is not a paper but something created, performed, or presented based on the student's understanding of our semester's work in films, plays, and other activities during the semester. Possibilities will be discussed individually and approved prior to beginning the project. Wearing a 1930's costume for the presentation is expected.

Grade Determination

Grading will be done on a 100 point scale. Grades falling between 90-100 will earn an A; 80-89 will earn a B; 70-79 will earn a C; 60-69 will earn a D and grades below 60 will earn an F.

Lead Discussion/Oral Presentation/Outline (5% each) ---10% Class Participation---5%
Film Paper ---10% Scene presentation ---- 10% Class Attendance---5%
Quizzes-----30% End of the Semester Public Presentation ---- 30%

Course Information:

TURN OFF cell phones and other electronic devices. Receiving or sending text messages or using an electric device in class and/or during discussions/presentations/quizzes will result in a grade of zero.

Academic Honesty

DO NOT USE OTHERS' WORK AS YOUR OWN. If you have a question about the use of any material for any assignment, check with the professor before using it. A fundamental expectation of this course is that you complete your own work, give sufficient credit when you use other people's ideas or language, and

refrain from presenting another's words, ideas, or language as your own. Intentional or unintentional plagiarism leaves you vulnerable to academic misconduct charges which can result in failing an assignment, failing the course, and possible expulsion from school. Plagiarizing another's work means you are being dishonest with yourself and with others. Strive to be academically and intellectually honest. If you seek help from a tutor, you are expected to create material offered yourself.

Mississippi State has an approved Honor Code that applies to all students. The code is as follows: "As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do." Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Student will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information, please visit: <http://honorcode.msstate.edu/policy>.

Title IX

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU's educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU's Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources at: <http://www.msstate.edu/web/security/title9-12.pdf>, or at <http://students.msstate.edu/sexualmisconduct/>.

Students with Disabilities

MSU, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, will make every reasonable accommodation for students with special learning needs, including hearing and visual impairments, diagnosed learning disabilities, and other classifications of disability specified in the Act. If you wish assistance under the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, please contact me as soon as possible or Student Support Services (<http://www.sssmsstate.edu/>) located at 01 Montgomery Hall, phone 662-325-3335. All requests for accommodations must be made at the beginning of the semester and should include appropriate written documentation.

University Safety Statement

Mississippi State University values the safety of all campus community members. Students are encouraged to register for Maroon Alert texts and to download the Everbridge App. Visit the Personal Information section in Banner on your mystate portal to register. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort via Safe Walk, call University Police at 662-325-2121, or in case of emergency, call 911. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit ready.msstate.edu

Sign and return by the next class period to insure that you have read and understand the syllabus. I will not grade your assignments until you have turned in a signed contract. "I have read and understand the syllabus for HON 3173-01 given in class. I understand and agree to all policies and procedures printed in this document. I understand that poor attendance and participation will result in a loss of points as outlined above and make-up work (if possible) will not be accepted without a verifiable excuse provided upon the first return to class. I understand the grading policy. I agree to abide by the MSU Honor Code and hold fellow students to those standards as well."

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Class Schedule: The following is a beginning framework for the course. Any of the structure can be changed at anytime to meet the needs of the class and the professor. Be flexible and no anxiety attacks!

Jan. 7-9--Introductions and Course syllabus.

Jan. 14-16--Film (Western): *Stagecoach*.

Jan. 21-23--Film (Romance): *Wuthering Heights*.

Jan. 28-30--Film (Musical): *The Wizard of Oz*.

Feb. 4-6--Film (Patriotic/Political): *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*.

Feb. 11-13--Film (Literary Adaptation): *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Feb. 18-27--Film (Epic Spectacle) *Gone With the Wind*. Attend Orators program on the 19th.

Mar. 3-5--Complete Film reviews. Begin play readings. Film papers due March 5th!

Mar. 9-13--SPRING BREAK

Mar. 17--Play: *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Mar. 19--Attended this class in February (Orators speaker).

Mar. 24--Play: *The Time of Your Life*.

Mar. 26--Work on upcoming Scene presentation.

Mar. 31--Play: *Life with Father*.

Apr. 2--Play: *Mornings at Seven*.

Apr. 7-9--Perform Scenes in class.

Apr. 14-16--Rehearsals for Public Presentations.

Apr. 20--Public Presentation beginning at 7 p.m. in the Forum Room.

Apr. 21--Discuss public presentation.

Apr. 28--Final Exam--Tuesday, 12-3 p.m.