

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 321
ENGLISH 321: FILM	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	1
	Credits:	3

A. Description

English 321 is a film history and appreciation course, with special emphasis on style, techniques, genres and themes. During one double period in which a full-length film is shown, students are encouraged to take notes. In the next class the film is discussed and analyzed. Students will read about the development of the cinema and write essays about well-known films.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

The Art of Watching Films, Boggs (Mayfield)
An Introduction to Film, Withers (Barnes & Noble)
The Film Experience, Huss and Silverstein (Delta)
Film as Art, Arnheim (U. of California)
From Scarface to Scarlett: Films of the 1930s, Dooley

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students are expected to watch the full-length films shown during the class periods and to join in discussions of them. They will also do reading and writing assignments, which may include a

research paper, and take a midterm and final examination. Grades will be assigned on the basis of students' total work in the class, which includes participation in discussion and group work as well as written assignments, quizzes, and examinations.

College Attendance Policy

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

F. Outline of Topics

Weeks 1-3: Backgrounds: the History of Film as Art Form and Social Institution

- A. The Technology of Film
- B. The Film Industry in Hollywood
- C. Artistic Developments in the Cinema
- D. Sociological Developments in Film Content and Message

Weeks 4-6: Early Films in Hollywood

- A. The Silent Films
- B. Films of the 1930s
- C. Films of the 1940s

Weeks 7-10: Later Developments

- A. Postwar Films and the 1950s Era
- B. Developments in the 1960s and 1970s
- C. Recent Directions in Film: the 1980s and 1990s

Weeks 11-14: Toward Intelligent Viewing of Films

- A. Film Criticism and Terminology
- B. The Medium and the Message; Analysis of Form and Content
- C. The Big Screen and the Small: the Impact of Television