INSTRUCTOR: Jason Davids Scott, Ph.D.
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Course Dates: May 16, 2016 – June 23, 2017
I try to respond to all e-mails within 48 hours; I am available for in-person or phone/skype office hours by request.

Course Description and Expectations:
This is an online course, and all course materials, including films, lectures, and readings, will be delivered online (see details about accessing films below). Every student will be responsible for viewing and reading all course material on their own.

The course is divided into three units. At the end of every unit, there will be a 20-question QUIZ based on the readings and viewings. **These timed quizzes must be taken online and will only be available for a 16-hour period.** Quizzes will cover the narrative, stylistic, and thematic content of the films, as well as information from the online text and required course readings. (Note: Quiz questions are drawn randomly from a pool of questions, so each student’s quiz is likely to be somewhat different).

At the end of the course, students will submit a **5 to 7-page paper** (1500-2000 words), due at 11:59 PM on the final day of class (June 23). A prompt for this paper with detailed requirements will be supplied to students electronically.

BECAUSE THIS IS A SUMMER COURSE, THERE WILL BE NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS OR MAKE-UP QUIZZES ACCEPTED. (However, if you have a verifiable medical excuse for a late assignment or completing a quiz when it is due, then other accommodations can be made.)

**Assignments**

| Quiz 1 (June 2): | 100 points |
| Quiz 2 (June 12): | 100 points |
| Quiz 3 (June 23): | 100 points |
| 5-7 Page Essay: | 300 points |

**Final Grading Scale:**

| 600 - 586 = A+ (w/o xtra cred) | 499 - 480 = B- |
| 585 - 560 = A | 479 - 445 = C+ |
| 559 – 540 = A- | 444 - 420 = C |
| 539 - 525 = B+ | 419 - 360 = D |
| 524 - 500 = B | |
| 359 - below = Various Academic Deficiency Possibilities | |

ASU does not allow professors to issue grades of C- or D+. 
Extra Credit Possibilities:

Early Draft
Students who e-mail a completed early draft of their essay to the professor by 11:59 PM on Friday, June 16, 2017, have the potential to earn up to 25 points extra credit. These drafts will be reviewed by the professor and returned to students with comments by Tuesday, June 23 (5:00 PM). All early drafts must be properly formatted, proofread, and include a bibliography/works cited section.

48-Hour Review
An individual student may, at any ONE time before June 16, ask that the professor assign him/her a musical NOT on the course syllabus to write a 2-3 page review/critique. This review must be completed within 72 hours of the professor making the assignment via e-mail, and is worth up to 40 points extra credit.

Accessing the Films:
Recent changes in film licensing practices mean that we are unable to offer some of the films in their entirety through the Herberger Online course portal. ASU is very respectful of and intends to maintain compliance with all relevant copyright and licensing regulations, though we recognize that this may prove to be a challenge for some students who are used to getting all of their course content from a single online source.

For some films, this might require a small payment or subscription to a service such as Netflix, HuluPlus, Amazon Prime, iTunes, or through home screen devices such as Roku, Apple, and SmartTV, etc. Please be aware that licensing agreements between film companies and those services are also subject to change: just because you can watch something on Netflix in June doesn’t necessarily mean it will still be available in July.

Netflix, HuluPlus, and Amazon Prime all cost less than $10 per month for a subscription, and occasionally these services have free 30-day trial offers. Amazon Prime and iTunes offer pay-per-view of films, usually for less than $5 for a limited rental period.

We do NOT recommend using an illegal/offshore site (such as bittorrent) for ANY films. In addition to being illegal and unethical, the files on these sites may harm your computer or be incomplete.

Currently, all of the films in the first two units are available through the Herberger portal. The films from unit three (“A Hard Day’s Night,” “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” and “All That Jazz”) are not. At the beginning of unit three, the professor will send out suggestions of where you might access the films.
**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All students must abide by all university standards for academic integrity. The ASU student academic integrity policy lists violations in detail. These violations fall into five broad areas that include but are not limited to:

1. Cheating on an academic evaluation or assignment.
2. Plagiarizing.
3. Academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information.
4. Aiding academic integrity policy violations and inappropriately collaborating.
5. Falsifying academic records.

If you have any questions regarding issues of academic integrity, please consult the ASU website at [http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/students](http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/students). You may also e-mail the instructor if you are unclear about any issues related to your work in this class.

Please also note that taking an online quiz for another student, or allowing another student to take an online quiz for you, is a violation of academic integrity.

Violations of academic integrity could result in penalties at the discretion of the instructor and/or the University, and could include failure on the assignment/quiz; failure in the class with a grade of XE indicating a violation of the policy; or suspension or expulsion from the university.

**Succeeding in this Course:**

Most important: WRITE DOWN THE QUIZ DATES and DUE DATES and don’t forget! Try to take quizzes EARLY in the day if possible, so you don’t have to worry about late technical glitches.

The online course material contains more suggestions for how to succeed in this class, including tips for watching and researching films online, writing guidelines, etc. Take advantage of having online contact with your instructor: one of the benefits of an online course is being able to get individual attention.

If you have any questions about the material or assignments, do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail – I make it a practice to answer all e-mails within 24 hours whenever possible (although I will be traveling some during the course of this class and will require more patience at those times).

But also feel free to e-mail me just to share your observations and opinions about the films or other course materials. It is my goal to see that you find this course productive and enjoyable, even though we don’t get the chance to meet in person.
Technical Problems:
If you encounter technical problems while taking an exam, **DO NOT SUBMIT THE EXAM!** Once you submit your exam, that’s it. That is your final score. If you encounter any strange technical problems, just stop and contact tech support via the ‘Help’ link on the course website.

Exam Resets:
Again, if you encounter any kind of technical problem during an exam, **DO NOT SUBMIT THE EXAM.** You will have one opportunity, and one only, to “reset” your exam. This is essentially a do-over for you, and will let you start over again on a new exam. All your work will be lost, but at least you’ll be able to submit the exam.

To reset your exam, close your browser window (better yet, quit your browser completely) without submitting your exam, and then come back to the course website and log in to the exam again. The system should recognize that you are attempting to reset your exam, and it will tell you what to do. If all goes well, you will be let back in to take your exam.

If you have any trouble during this “reset,” contact Tech Support via the “Help” link on the course website. **Do not email your instructor with technical problems.** He really doesn't know anything about that. (Seriously. I can’t help, except to refer you to the “help” button.)

Remember, you only get one reset. Period.

A Note About Time:
All times related to exams, or other assignment with set deadlines, refer to the time on the Herberger Online servers. For example, if an exam closes at 2:00 PM, it closes when our server, here in Arizona, says 2:00 PM. (During the summer months, Arizona has the same clock as the Pacific time zone.)

If you are taking any part of this class from somewhere other than Arizona, you are responsible for knowing what time it is in Arizona, and making sure your assignments and exams are completed on time. It does not matter what the clock on your personal computer, or cell phone, says. The only official time is the time on the Herberger Online server hosting your exam.

All of this is to say that **you should not wait until the last minute to take your exam!** If you try to cut it close, and the clock on your computer disagrees with ours by five minutes, or even less, you might find yourself locked out of the only exam in the entire course. Get to the exam with plenty of time (I mean at least a few hours) to spare. Take the practice exam to make sure your computer is working.
If you give yourself lots of time, you’ll be able to recover from the computer crashes, internet outages, and other technical problems that can plague online learning.

Hopefully, you won’t have to worry about these, but if you need to contact tech support, and wait for their response, you don’t want it to happen when there are only five minutes left before the exam closes.

Course Schedule

ACT ONE: “YOU AIN’T HEARD NOTHIN’ YET!”

SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE AMERICAN FILM MUSICAL

Online Lectures (Reading):

  Introduction
  What to Expect and How to Succeed in This Class
  Understanding and Defining a Musical Cinema
  Some Myths About Musicals
  The Origins of the Musical
  American Film and the Transition to Sound: The Jazz Singer
  The Backstage Musical: Footlight Parade
  The Musical Romance: Swing Time

View:

  The Jazz Singer (Warner Brothers, dir. Alan Crosland, 1927)
  Footlight Parade (Warner Brothers, dir. Lloyd Bacon, 1934)
  Swing Time (RKO, dir. George Stevens, 1936)

Read Articles (viewable online):

  From The American Film Musical, p. 200-234.
  (Indiana University Press, 1987)

  Roth, Mark “Some Warners Musicals and the Spirit of the New Deal.”

  Babington and Evans, “Swing Time and the Astaire-Rogers Musical”
  From Blue Skies and Silver Linings, p. 93-112.
  (Manchester University Press, 1985)

QUIZ ONE: AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY JUNE 2: 8:00am to 11:59pm.
ACT TWO: “A SHOW THAT IS REALLY A SHOW”:
THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE HOLLYWOOD MUSICAL

Online Lectures (Reading):
- The Golden Age of the Hollywood Musical
- Biography of a Star: The Jolson Story
- The Freed Unit: The Band Wagon / Singin’ in the Rain

View:
- The Jolson Story (Columbia, dir. Alfred E. Green, 1946)
- Singin’ in the Rain (MGM, dir. Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen, 1952)
- The Band Wagon (MGM, dir. Vincente Minnelli, 1953)

Articles:
  From The American Film Musical, p. 235-271.
- Babington and Evans, “Jolson I/II and the Musical Biopic”
  From Blue Skies and Silver Linings, p. 114-140.

QUIZ TWO: AVAILABLE MONDAY, JUNE 12: 8:00am to 11:59pm.

ACT THREE: “IT’S SHOWTIME, FOLKS!”: NEW MUSICAL PARADIGMS

Online Lectures (Reading):
- New Musical Paradigms
- Rock and Roll: A Hard Day’s Night
- The Reanimated Musical: The Rocky Horror Picture Show
- Breaking the Musical’s Heart: The Rest of the Story and All That Jazz
- Supplemental notes on Pennies from Heaven

View:
- A Hard Day’s Night (United Artists, dir. Richard Lester, 1964)
- The Rocky Horror Picture Show (20th-C. Fox, dir. Jim Sharman 1976)
- All That Jazz (20th Century-Fox, dir. Bob Fosse 1979)
  OR: Pennies from Heaven (MGM, dir. Herbert Ross, 1981)

Read Articles (viewable online):
  From Genre: The Musical, p. 159-174.

QUIZ THREE: AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY, JUNE 23: 8:00am to 11:59pm.

EARLY DRAFT EXTRA CREDIT DUE 11:59 PM FRIDAY, JUNE 16
(OPTIONAL – E-MAIL DIRECTLY TO THE PROFESSOR)

FINAL ESSAY DUE 11:59 PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 23