Course Name: FMP 403 – INDEPENDENT FILM – FALL 2023 - B session
Course #s 79371 and 71407

Meeting Time/Location: This course is an iCourse or ASU on-line course. No in-person or sync course meetings. Students must stay on track on Canvas.

Professor/Faculty Advisor: Andres Torres-Vives
andres.torres.vives@asu.edu (e-mail is highly preferred)
Office Phone: 213-510-6991
Zoom: https://asu.zoom.us/my/andres.torres

Office Hours: Thursdays, 10am - 12pm (noon), by appointment (Los Angeles time)
Additional office hours by appointment
(all via Zoom, unless otherwise noted)

Course Description:
This course examines the history of independent filmmaking, with a specific focus on US-based independent filmmaking traditions; and how those traditions are influenced by and in turn influence other filmmaking practices (including Hollywood studio filmmaking, foreign films, avant-garde films, etc.)

This course consist of video lectures and digital readings on the course Canvas page. There are no set course meetings and it is essential that students stay on schedule with the Canvas course material.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Analyze independent filmmaking aesthetics in relation to conventional film aesthetics
- Evaluate independent film as a professional practice in relation to the mainstream American film industry
- Compare both the personal and political elements of independent film in relation to contemporary cultural studies and practices
- Apply specific methodologies and critical frameworks to analyze independent filmmaking practices, theory, and criticism; and/or to create original works inspired by the practices, theories, and texts examined in class.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successfully completing this course, the student will:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of individuals, institutions, and innovative practices that significantly impacted the history of independent film.
- Understand current industrial practice where independently made films intersect with popular film/media productions in a variety of media marketplaces.
- Demonstrate an appreciation for the ways in which independent film represents the distinct and unique perspective of both individuals and groups that are not typically expressed or represented in contemporary culture.
- Understand how established critical frameworks and methodologies can be used to analyze independent film texts in order to articulate original and/or unique opinions, observations, and perspectives.

Graded Assignments and points – (more detail will be provided on Canvas for each assignment)

- Weekly video response (3 required @ 50 pts) 150 points
- Short essay 150 points
- Short essay feedbacks 150 points
- Final Project 200 points
- Final Project Feedbacks 150 points
- Successful completion of all Canvas Modules 200 points

Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>980-1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>940-979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>900-939</td>
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<td>880-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>800-839</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>780-799</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
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<td>E or XE</td>
<td>less than 600</td>
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Attendance Policy:
While there is no attendance at set times required, it is essential that students stay on track with Canvas assignments, recordings, readings and modules.
General ASU Technology Requirements and Information:

ASU Sync classes can be live streamed anywhere with the proper technology. We encourage you to use a PC or Apple laptop or desktop equipped with a built-in or standalone webcam. You will need an internet connection that can effectively stream live broadcasts. It is recommended that your internet download speed is at least 5.0 mbps. You can use this tool to test your current connection.

We do not recommend the use of iPads or Chromebooks for ASU Sync as these devices do not work for class exams that may be proctored remotely.

If you are not able to personally finance the equipment you need to attend class via ASU Sync, ASU has a laptop and WiFi hotspot checkout program available through ASU Library.

Who is eligible?
● Any currently enrolled ASU student is eligible to checkout a laptop. The current availability of laptops can be found [here](https://brandguide.asu.edu/node/335).
● Borrowing and returning laptop rules
● Laptops are lent on a first-come, first-serve basis, and cannot be reserved in advance. They can be returned at any time, but will be due at the conclusion of the fall 2020 semester.
● Rentals are limited to one laptop per student.
● Laptops are available for checkout at the following libraries on all four campuses. (Please check online for current library hours)
  ○ Downtown Phoenix campus Library
  ○ Polytechnic campus Library
  ○ Tempe: Hayden and Noble Libraries
  ○ West campus: Fletcher Library
● Return laptops to any ASU Library Information Desk (not at the drop box or other location)
● Refer to ASU Library Computer Use Policy and ASU Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications Policy.
● Borrowers are responsible for loss, damage, and theft of the laptop while in their possession. Borrowers should verify the condition of the laptop at the time of check-out and upon check-in.

Campus Safety, Location, and Permit Information:
This important information can be found via this link, while signed into your MyASU account [https://brandguide.asu.edu/node/335](https://brandguide.asu.edu/node/335)

Student Success:
To be successful:
● Check the course regularly
● Read announcements
● Read and respond to course email messages as needed
● Complete assignments by the due dates specified
● Communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
● Create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track
● Access [ASU Student Resources](https://brandguide.asu.edu/node/335)

Attendance Policy:
Excused absences related to religious observances/practices in accord with ACD 304–04, “Accommodation for Religious Practices.” Students may be excused for the observance of religious holidays. Students should notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester about the need to be absent from class due to religious observances. Students will be responsible for materials covered during their absence and should consult with the instructor to arrange reasonable accommodation for missed exams or other required assignments.

Excused absences related to university sanctioned activities in accord with ACD 304–02, “Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities,” as well as SSM 201-18: Accommodating Active Duty Military. Students required to miss classes due to university sanctioned activities or activities as active military or spouse of active military that do not activate withdrawal will not be counted absent. However, absence from class or examinations due to these activities does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of the absence. Students should inform the instructor early in the semester of upcoming scheduled absences and immediately upon learning of unscheduled required class absences. Reasonable accommodation to make up missed exams or other required assignments will be made. Consult the instructor BEFORE the absence to arrange for this accommodation.

**Academic Integrity and Student Code of Conduct:**
Besides academic performance, students should exhibit the qualities of honesty and integrity. Every student is expected to produce his/her original, independent work. Any student whose work indicates a violation of the ASU Academic Misconduct Policy including cheating, plagiarism, and dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary action. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately passing off someone else’s words or ideas as your own. All necessary and appropriate sanctions will be issued to all parties involved with plagiarizing any and all course work. Plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty that is in violation with the Student Code of Conduct will not be tolerated. Arizona State University and the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts expect the highest standards of academic integrity from all students. Failure to meet these standards may result in suspension or expulsion from the university or other sanctions as specified in the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy (http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity), “[e]ach student must act with honesty and integrity, and must respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments.” This policy also defines academic dishonesty and sets a process for faculty members and colleges to sanction dishonesty. Violations of this policy fall into five broad areas that include but are not limited to:

- Cheating on an academic evaluation or assignments
- Plagiarizing
- Academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information
- Aiding Academic Integrity Policy violations and inappropriately collaborating
- Falsifying academic records

I sanction any incidents of academic dishonesty in my courses using University and HIDA guidelines. Should you have any question about whether or not something falls subject to this clause, feel free to contact me or review the university policy on academic integrity at the above link. Per ASU policy, a student may not avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty by withdrawing from a course, and may be placed back in the course in order to face sanctions resulting from academic integrity violations. You are responsible for abiding by this policy.
Copyright:
Students must refrain from uploading to any course shell, discussion board, or website used by the course instructor or other course forum, material that is not the student's original work, unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws; faculty members reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement. A statement that the course content, including lectures and other handouts, is copyrighted material. Students may not share outside the class, upload, sell, or distribute course content or notes taken during the conduct of the course (see ACD 304–06, “Commercial Note Taking Services” for more information). THIS CONTENT IS PROTECTED AND MAY NOT BE SHARED, UPLOADED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED.

Student Conduct:
ASU adheres to a university-wide Student Code of Conduct. The philosophy behind this policy states: The aim of education is the intellectual, personal, social, and ethical development of the individual. The educational process is ideally conducted in an environment that encourages reasoned discourse, intellectual honesty, openness to constructive change and respect for the rights of all individuals. Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the university community are necessary for the fulfillment of such goals. The Student Code of Conduct is designed to promote this environment at each of the state universities. You are expected to treat your instructor and your fellow classmates with respect and kindness. In all correspondence and in Discussion Board postings, you should show respect for the viewpoints of others who may disagree with you or see things from a different perspective. Criticizing, ridiculing, insulting, or belittling others will not be accepted. Keep in mind that electronic communications do not have the advantage of nonverbal cues that are so much a part of interpersonal communication. Humor or satire can sometimes be misinterpreted in strictly electronic communication forums.

Threatening or Disruptive Behavior:
Self-discipline and a respect for the rights of others in the classroom or studio and university community are necessary for a conducive learning and teaching environment. Threatening or violent behavior will result in the administrative withdrawal of the student from the class. Disruptive behavior may result in the removal of the student from the class. Threatening, violent, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in this class, and will be handled in accordance with ASU policy. For more information please visit: https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/srr/PoliciesAndProcedures and https://eoss.asu.edu/dos/safety/ThreateningBehavior.

Classroom Behavior (Technology Usage):
It is encouraged that you bring technology (cell phones, tablets and laptops) to class to help you take notes and do research, however, please turn off cell phone ringers and do not use your phone to make personal calls in class or use any technology to use social media in class. Do not answer your phone in class. If you believe you are receiving an emergency call, please step outside to take it.

Withdrawal:
If you are unable to complete the course, it is your responsibility to arrange for withdrawal from the class. You will not be automatically withdrawn and unless you are officially withdrawn from the course you will receive a final grade based upon the total points you have earned for the semester. Students are required to pay all tuition and fees for any registered course unless enrollment is officially cancelled during the 100% refund period. Please visit the Academic Calendar to review the withdrawal deadlines for this semester. For more information on Drop/Add and Withdrawal visit: https://students.asu.edu/drop-add

Special Accommodations:
Your instructor is willing to make any reasonable adaptations for limitations due to any documented disability, including learning disabilities. Please contact the instructor during office hours or by appointment to discuss any special needs you may have. You must contact the Disability Resource Center to process the paperwork for special course accommodations. To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the ASU Disability Resource Center (http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc/#; Phone: (480) 965-1234; TDD: (480) 965-9000). This is a very important step as accommodations may be difficult to make retroactively. If you have a letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, in order to assure that you receive your accommodations in a timely manner, please present this documentation to me as soon as possible so that your needs can be addressed effectively.

Disability Support Services:
Students with disabilities must have an equally effective and equivalent educational opportunity as those students without disabilities. Students experiencing difficulty accessing course materials because of a disability are expected to contact the course instructor so that a solution can be found that provides all students equal access to course materials and technology. Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. It may be difficult to make accommodations retroactively. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential.

Information for Students with Disabilities:
Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Students should contact the Disability Resource Center on the campus that your class is being held. Campus-specific location and contact information can be found on the DRC website. DRC offices are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday. Check the DRC website for eligibility and documentation policies (https://eoss.asu.edu/drc)

Title IX and Mandated Reporter Policy:
Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

Policy on Sexual Discrimination:
Policy on sexual discrimination as described in ACD 401, "Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation", including the fact that the instructor is a mandated reporter and therefore obligated to report any information regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination. Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information. As an
employee of ASU, I am a mandated reporter and obligated to report instances of reported or suspected incidences of sexual harassment.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:**
Students must abide by all the requirements stated in this syllabus. In addition, all students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities at Arizona State University. Please reference the college catalog and student handbook for student rights and responsibilities.
These can be found here:

**Novel Coronavirus Information and Updates:**
You will find information and Frequently Asked Questions here: https://eoss.asu.edu/communityofcare
You will find Novel Coronavirus updates and announcements here:  
https://eoss.asu.edu/health/announcements/coronavirus

**Student Services & Resources:**
Resources included are advisement, registration, financial aid, disability services, counseling, tutoring, library, and more at: https://tutoring.asu.edu/student-resources

**Campus Contact Information:**
- Counseling Services (Tempe) (480) 965-6146
- Empact 24 Hour Crisis Line (480) 921-1006
- Health Services (480) 965-3349
- Student Success Center (480) 965-9072
- Student Rights and Responsibilities (480) 965-6547
- Disability Resource Center (480) 965-1234

**Academic Calendar and Important Dates:**
The academic calendar can be found here: https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar

**Subject to change:**
The Instructor reserves the right to change portions of this syllabus (assignments, deadlines etc.) by verbal instructions during scheduled class time. The student is responsible for noting changes and acting accordingly. Grading and absence policies are not subject to change.