

## ENG 321 Expository Writing (Special Topic: Writing about Film) Wintermester 2019

### Number of Credits

3

### Instructor

Prof. Daniel Morse / dmorse@unr.edu / FH 032

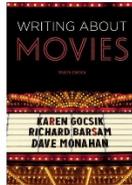
### Catalog Description

Advanced composition in various forms of expository prose with attention to structural and stylistic problems. (**NB:** Special Winter 2019 Topic: Writing about Film)

### Required Textbooks/Materials

The following texts are required material in this course (other readings available on WebCampus; films will be screened in class):

Gocsik, Karen et al., *Writing about Movies*. Fourth ed. New York: W. W. Norton, 2015.  
ISBN: 9780393265231



### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing ENG 321, students will be able to

- read academic arguments critically;
- write an academic argument using support from a variety of sources;
- analyze texts and present their meanings in writing; and
- identify disciplinary values for writing.

## First Week of Materials/Assignments

The following schedule is subject to change:

*January 2:* Introduction; How to keep a screening journal; Overview of Early Cinema; Screening of Edison, Méliès, & Lumière short films

*January 3:* Screening Day: Silent Film (bring snacks & notebooks)

## Course Details

In this special Wintermester version of ENG 321, we'll practice advanced composition by writing about film. In class, we'll: learn how to conduct formal analysis of film; briefly cover the development of cinema techniques and technologies; read and discuss film criticism; and practice writing as a process that includes planning, drafting, and rewriting. Short in-class writing exercises will give you the skills necessary to complete the out-of-class assignments. Your writing assignments will teach you how to write a critical, academic argument (using secondary sources) to present your analysis of films of your choice.

Feel free to contact the instructor via e-mail ([dmorse@unr.edu](mailto:dmorse@unr.edu)) with any questions about the course's requirements, possible conflicts, and so on—issues known in advance can frequently be accommodated.

## Assignments

**Film Term Definition:** an exercise in writing for informational purposes—a tight, brief (2-page) essay that defines a key term from film criticism and illustrates it using a clearly described example.

**Scene Analysis Presentation:** a short (5–7 minutes), informal, argumentative presentation about a scene's key effect, made to the class; includes a requirement for a well-designed visual component.

**Brief Reviews:** an exercise in writing to evaluate—five brief (300–400 words), incisive reviews of films of the student's choice.

**Film Essay:** an extended argumentative essay on a film of the student's choice, driven by a well-defined thesis, and incorporating appropriate (though not extensive) contextual research component (NB: We will work on these assignments in class throughout Wintermester to get students working, and to make the going easier; all of these elements constitute the Film Essay's grade).

**Late Assignment Policy:** Because of Wintermester's shortened schedule, assignments cannot be accepted late except in only the most extreme circumstances (see instructor).

## Grade Breakdown

The point distribution for the course is:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Daily Assignments	10
Discussion	10
Film Term Definition (2 pgs.)	15
Scene Analysis Presentation	15
Brief Reviews	20
Film Essay	30
<i>Total</i>	<i>100</i>

The percentage distribution for the course is:

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
A	94–100
A-	90–93
B+	87–89
B	84–86
B-	80–83
C+	77–79
C	74–76
C-	70–73
D+	67–69
D	64–66
D-	60–63
F	below 60