

## FILM 486

## Studies in World Film

Spring 2022  
Dr. José Sanjinés  
Office hours

Email:  
Telephone:  
Synchronous virtual office hours:

[sanjines@coastal.edu](mailto:sanjines@coastal.edu)  
843 349-2467  
W 11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
and by appointment

**Online Course** This is an online course with no class meetings. You will complete all your work online. Class attendance will be based on your participation and completion of online activities.

**Contact** The best way to contact me if you have questions about the course or assignments is to email me at my Coastal account [sanjines@coastal.edu](mailto:sanjines@coastal.edu). Please include your name, course number and section in your message. I will respond to your message within 24 hours during schooldays. If you do not receive a response from me within 24 hours, please resend your email or call again as I may not have received your first message.

If you have general questions about the course that you do not mind sharing publicly, I will try to answer them during my synchronous virtual office hours in the Studies in World Film Chat Room between the hours indicated above. Please let me know the time you plan to attend — the session is interrupted when the room is not attended. You will find the link for the Chat Room in the Main Portal of our Moodle site. We can also meet via Zoom. I will send you a link after we agreed on a time.

**Moodle** If you are experiencing technical difficulties within Moodle, complete the **Moodle Student Help Request** form. If you have questions about how to use Moodle, such as course tools and resources, visit ITS-Student Computing Services in Kearns Hall 113 or contact the Tech Support Center at 843-349-2220 for training and support.

**Coastal Email** You will receive **announcements** that I post in Moodle at your Coastal email address; you should therefore check your Coastal email regularly.

**Texts** *Film Studies*, Second Edition, by Ed Sikov. Columbia University Press, 2020  
*New Vocabularies in Film Semiotics: Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Beyond*, by Robert Stam, Robert Burgoyne, and Sandy Flitterman-Lewis. 1992.

These books are required; you will need them to complete the activities of the course. Assigned readings are listed in the course schedule. The books can be purchased through Amazon or other online retailers. Electronic versions of these books can be purchased without delay.

**Films** Approximately about half of the films required for this class are embedded in Moodle via Kanopy, a streaming platform free for Coastal students. You will need, however, to purchase some films from popular streaming services such as YouTube, Netflix, Prime Video, Hulu, Vimeo, and others. These required films are marked **(P)** for **must purchase** in the course schedule.

- Films' Rating** A CAUTIONARY NOTE: Some of the films used for instructional purposes in this class are rated "R" by the MPAA or "Age-restricted" in Kanopy and may contain depictions of sex, nudity and violence — unavoidable themes in a survey of world film.
- Additional Readings** You will also be assigned to read articles outside your textbook. These texts will be available in pdf format, so be sure you have a pdf reader program installed on your computer. If you are not able to open a pdf file, you may download here the [Adobe pdf Reader](#).
- Video files** You will also be assigned to view short video files on specific topics covered in the class. If you have difficulty viewing these files, please contact [Student Computing Services](#).

### *Course description*

**FILM 486. Studies in World Film.** (3) Course gives students the opportunity to study masterwork of world film and to explore how these works are connected to broader cultural, social and historical processes. This course will also explore important monuments of film criticism and theory. Offered as needed.

### *Objectives of the course*

The course studies masterworks of world film from the critical perspective of film studies. At one level, the course studies some of the fundamental elements of film form and film history. Students will learn the technical language of the cinema, its development, and the ways in which devices and techniques are used to create meaning. At another level, the selection of films sparks the analysis of some of the social, cultural, economic, artistic, and technological questions involved in the subject. Thus, along with essential topics in film studies, students will consider such questions as the dialectics of the center and periphery of culture, the effects of globalization, the struggles for decolonization and minority, racial, and indigenous justice, as well as immigrant, women, and LGBTQ rights — topics that are pertinent to activism, advocacy, and leadership studies.

Students will be able to:

- Recognize, contextualize, and evaluate critically exemplars of world film.
- Identify elements of the compositional devices and techniques in particular films and apply methods in the field of film studies.
- Discuss the historical, social, economic, and cultural context of world film and consider critical questions of justice, human rights, and the struggle towards more egalitarian social formations.

### *Student learning outcomes*

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Apply film studies methods to selected exemplars of world film.
- Reflect critically and discuss some of the global socio-cultural issues presented by the films.
- Consider modes of negotiating and engaging some of the questions opened by the course.
- Recognize the historical practices that have generated global structural inequalities.
- Understand some of the fundamental aspects of contemporary digital media.
- Situate the study of world film in the context of today's systems of communication.



## ***Student Assessment & Grades***

### ***Points Distribution used for final grade calculation***

Midterm paper	200
Final paper	200
Course activities: Reading Review Quizzes. Discussion Forum Posts	500
Course participation/attendance	100
<b>Total available points</b>	<b>1000</b>

### ***Grading Scale***

Midterm and Final letter grades will be based on the following point percentages:

A	900-1000	C	700-769
B+	870-899	D+	670-699
B	800-869	D	600-669
C+	770-799	F	0-599

Depending on the nature of the assignment and the instructor's workload, grades and feedback will be provided within one or two weeks after the assignment deadline has passed.

### ***Essays***

A midterm and a final paper are required for the class. The midterm paper should be about 3 to 4 typed pages long and the final term paper between 4 to 5 typed pages. Instructions on the nature and topic of these essays will be posted in Moodle.

### ***Course Activities***

Course activities will include reading review quizzes and discussion forum posts.

### ***Reading Review Quizzes***

Reading review quizzes will be short 10-20 question quizzes based on the content from the textbook readings. You will have one reading review quiz per week. Each quiz is worth 25 points.

### ***Discussion Forum Guidelines***

Each other week you will have the opportunity to discuss one or more ideas or questions open by the reading and viewing material. You are required to post at least two messages to the forum each week. The first one is your answer to the question posted by the instructor. You must also respond to at least one of your classmates. Responding to more than one student will enhance your grade and understanding of the question. The deadline for your response to the question posted by the instructor is due on Friday of that week at 11:00pm, and the follow-up response(s) are due that Sunday at 11:00pm. Intelligent posting to more students will enhance your grade.

To answer the posted question, you should write 5-10 sentences that provide a solid response to it. You will be graded on how well your response answers the question rather than the length of your post. Please read forum questions carefully. They are intended to make you consider and apply specific elements of the course. They are not meant to solicit freelance interpretations of the videos (that does not show me that you are learning the material). Read the questions carefully and provide thoughtful, researched answers to what the questions are asking in particular. I welcome anything else you would like to add, feel free to express yourself fully and abundantly — but you must answer the question if you want to receive full credit.

When you respond to your fellow students, your post should not be superficial — it should have substance. Do not post an off-the-cuff response such as “I agree completely, great insight.” If you do agree or disagree — tell us why. Look for posts that offer the most intelligent responses to the questions and build from there. Adding examples from any of the verbal or visual texts you have been studying is highly encouraged.

The weekly discussion forum posts will be worth a total of 25 points for each week. You will receive 20 points for your initial answer to the question, and 5 points for your responses to your classmate(s).

**Note:** Class attendance and participation is also based on your postings to the weekly discussion forums.

### ***Course Participation and Attendance***

Course participation and attendance is worth 100 points. Please see the Attendance policy statement below for additional information on participation and attendance. You will be able to track your attendance online in Moodle.

### ***Schedule of Exams and Course Activities***

Please see the Course Calendar document posted in course website in Moodle for a list of due dates for all course exams and activities.

### ***Attendance Policy***

Class attendance and participation is based on your postings to the weekly discussion forums. Each week, you are expected to post to that week’s forum. Be sure to participate regularly in the discussion forums in order to receive credit for attendance. Just logging into Moodle does not count as attendance in the course. Only discussion postings will count as full attendance for the week. You will be able to track your attendance in the course site in Moodle. Each new week will begin on Monday. Failing to participate in 25% of online discussions in a timely manner will result in failure.

### ***Late Work Policy***

Students are expected to complete all coursework by the deadlines given. Quizzes and Forums will be available online for one week. There will be no make-up quizzes or forums without an excuse that covers the entire week of availability. Do not wait until the last minute to take quizzes and participate in the forums.

### ***Statement of Community Expectations & Code of Student Conduct***

“Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.” Please review [Coastal Carolina University’s Student Code of Conduct](#).

### ***Communication Rules***

Please be respectful to other students and follow the communication rules below when posting on the class discussion forum. Impolite or inappropriate posts will receive a grade of “0”. Students are expected to treat one another with respect and basic common courtesies in our online classroom. All students should expect a safe learning environment. This environment should be free of derogatory, offensive, harassing or inappropriate remarks or materials including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and age. Flaming and spamming will not be tolerated. Comments of this nature will not be tolerated and will result in appropriate action by the instructor. In this course, we will employ the following guidelines:

- Fully participate in our learning community. Honor the background and experiences others bring to the discussion
- Respectfully agree or disagree with your classmates.
- Respect your classmates’ privacy.
- Share what you know with your classmates. Be helpful.
- Avoid typing in all capital letters as it can be seen as yelling.
- Avoid the overuse of textspeak (ROFL, LOL, IMHO, etc.) and slang.
- Read and review your posts for clarity and accuracy. Run spellcheck.
- Use language appropriate to an academic environment this includes grammar and punctuation.
- Be sure to appropriately cite the work of others. *If you don’t give credit you get no credit.*
- Be brief and to the point in your posts (within the assignment guidelines).

### ***Students with disabilities requesting accommodations***

Students requesting accommodations should contact the instructor sometime during the first two weeks of class. Accommodation requests must be presented in a timely fashion in writing with approval from the Disabilities Services Office — an accommodation request made at the last minute may not be possible to arrange. The Office of Accessibility and Disability Services for Students (349-2934) will be happy to offer assistance to students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities. Visit the website of CCU’s [Accessibility and Disability Services](#).

Coastal Carolina University is committed to equitable access and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals seeking reasonable accommodations should contact [Accessibility and Disability Services](#) or call at 843-349-2503.

## Studies in World Film

**Course Schedule** **Note:** This a provisional schedule. To be up to date please refer to the schedule currently posted in our Moodle page, not to old copies you may have previously downloaded.

LIS 486	Studies in World Film	Dr. José Sanjinés
<b>Spring 2022</b>	<b>Reminder: Quizzes are due at 11:00 pm on the Sunday</b> of a given week. <b>Forums are due at 11:00 pm on Friday and Sunday</b> of a given week. <b>Note:</b> Reading Review Quizzes also may include questions to videos or other texts posted for that week.	
	<b>Abbreviations</b> <b>(FS)</b> <i>Film Studies</i> ; <b>(NV)</b> <i>New Vocabularies in Film Semiotics</i> <b>(K) Film:</b> = The film is available for free in Kanopy <b>(P) Film:</b> = You <b>must purchase</b> the film through a streaming service	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>
Week 1 Jan 10 –	Introduction to Moodle. Read messages and material posted in Moodle Representation and Reality (FS, pgs. 1-4). The Origins of Semiotics & The Founders of Semiotics (NV, pgs.1-9) <b>(K) Film: <i>Bicycle Thieves</i></b> , Vittorio De Sica (1948). Italy.	Take Syllabus Quiz Introduce yourself
Week 2 Jan 17 –	Film and Ideology (FS, pgs. 169-183). The Origins of Semiotics & The Founders of Semiotics (NV, pgs.1-9) <b>(K) Film: <i>Battleship Potemkin</i></b> , Sergei Eisenstein (1925). Russia.	Forum 1 and Quiz 1
Week 3 Jan 24 –	Mise-en-Scene: Within the Image 1 (FS, pgs. 5-12 to Camera Angle). Jakobson’s Communication Paradigm (NV, pgs. 15-17). <b>(P) Film: <i>Hugo</i></b> , Martin Scorsese (2010) US.	Quiz 2
Week 4 Jan 31 –	Mise-en-Scene: Within the Image 2 (FS, pgs. 12-23). The Advent of Structuralism (NV, pgs. 18-23). <b>(K) Film: <i>Parasite</i></b> , Bong Joon-ho (2019). South Korea.	Quiz 3 Forum 2
Week 5 Feb 7 –	Mise-en-Scene: Camera Movement (FS, pgs. 24-37). Post-structuralism: The Critique of the Sign. (NV, pgs. 23-27). <b>(K) Film: <i>Embrace of the Serpent</i></b> , Ciro Guerra (2015). Colombia-Venezuela-Argentina.	Quiz 4
Week 6 Feb 14 –	Mise-en-Scene: Cinematography 1 (FS, pgs. 38-47). Cine-Semiology (NV, pgs. 28-33). <b>(P) Film: <i>Just Mercy</i></b> , Destin Daniel Cretton (2019). USA. <b>Free Screening</b> and discussion of this film this Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, 6 p.m., at Coastal Theater, Lib Jackson Student Union.	Quiz 5 Forum 3
Week 7 Feb 21 –	Mise-en-Scene: Cinematography 2 (FS, pgs. 48-54). Cinema: <i>Language or Langage?</i> (NV, pgs. 33-37). <b>(K) Film: <i>Elena</i></b> , Andrey Zvyagintsev (2011). Russia.	Quiz 6
Week 8 Feb 28 –	Editing: From Shot to Shot (FS, pgs. 55-67 to “The 180 System”). The Grand Syntagmatique (NV, pgs. 37-40). <b>(P) Film: <i>Babel</i></b> , Alejandro González Iñárritu (2006). International co-production; multiple stories taking place in Morocco, Japan, Mexico and the US.	Quiz 7 Forum 4
Week 9 Mar 7 –	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Week 10 Mar 14 –	Editing: From Shot to Shot (FS, pgs. 67-73). The Semiotics of Narrative. (NV, pgs. 69-73). <b>(K) Film: <i>Modern Times</i></b> , Charlie Chaplin (1936). USA	Quiz 8 <b>Midterm Paper DUE</b> Friday, March 18

Week 11 Mar 21 –	Sound (FS, pgs. 74-88). <b>(P) Film:</b> <i>The Artist</i> , Michel Hazanavicius (2011). France. <b>Note:</b> You will need to subscribe to Netflix to see this film. <a href="#">Click here</a> . The subscription will also allow you to see next week's film <i>The Power of the Dog</i> .	Quiz 9 Forum 5
Week 12 Mar 28 –	The Semiotics of Filmic Sound (NV, pgs. 59-63). <b>(P) Film:</b> <i>The Power of the Dog</i> , Jane Campion (2021). New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Canada. <b>Note:</b> The Oscars air this Sunday, March 27. 8 p.m. at ABC. <i>The Power of the Dog</i> has received 12 nominations, including Best Picture and Best Director.	Quiz 10
Week 13 April 4 –	Narrative: From Scene to Scene (FS, pgs. 89-97 to Character...) <b>(K) Film:</b> <i>Where is the Friend's House</i> , Abbas Kiarostami (1987). Iran.	Quiz 11 Forum 6
Week 14 April 11 –	Film Studies in the Era of Digital Cinema (FS, pgs. 184-196). <b>(K) Film:</b> <i>Styx</i> , Wolfgang Fischer (2018). Germany/Austria	Quiz 12
Week 15 April 18 –	Feminist Film Theory (NV, pgs. 174-182). <b>(K) Film:</b> <i>In the Mood for Love</i> , Wong Kar-wai (2000). China/Hong Kong/France.	Quiz 13
Week 16 April 25 –		<b>Final Paper DUE</b> Sunday, May 1
April 27	<b>Last day of classes</b>	

Reviewed November 30, 2022