COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: MCOM 1106: American Cinema

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 3
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): College level reading and writing
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course surveys Hollywood filmmaking as an art form, economic force, and as a system of cultural communication. Stylistic elements are examined from the perspective of various genres and time periods. Students will learn the language of American cinema; increase their understanding of how films work as art and how films convey meaning as cultural artifacts. Students will also learn analysis skills to become more active and critical viewers.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): February, 2012

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. Emergence of Cinema as an Institution
2. Classical Hollywood Cinema: Narration & Style
3. The Studio System
4. Silent Film Melodramas
5. The Revolution of Sound
6. The Star System
7. American Comedy
8. War Films
9. Film Noir
10. Science Fiction
11. Horror
12. Westerns
13. The Impact of the Cold War on Hollywood
14. The Impact of the Advent of Television on Hollywood
15. 1960’s Counterculture Cinema
17. Contemporary Motion Pictures

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1. Explain how the American Cinema system operates in terms of production, distribution and exhibition.
2. Recount the important events in the technological history of American Cinema
3. Categorize films according to genre and time period.
4. Describe how the cultural contexts of various time periods affect film content.
5. Name important directors and their major stylistic conventions and contributions to film history.
6. Describe how the technology of cinema relates to film art.
7. Recognize the stylistic devices used to convey meaning in film.
8. Describe the place of film in American pop culture history.
9. Develop a cinematic literacy by using a technical critical vocabulary of motion pictures.
10. Recognize the conventions of film narration and storytelling.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
E. **LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued . . .**

3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.

4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 6/The Humanities and Fine Arts: The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 7/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:

1. Understand the development of and the changing meaning of group identities in the U.S.'s history and culture.
2. Demonstrate awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population Diversity.

F. **METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:**

May include any or all of the following:

1. Objective exams
2. Quizzes
3. Small group discussions and projects
4. Oral presentations
5. Written journals
6. Essay exams
7. Or any other activities deemed appropriate by an individual instructor

G. **RTC CORE OUTCOME(S) ADDRESSED:**

- [X] Communication
- [ ] Civic Responsibility
- [X] Critical Thinking
- [ ] Personal/Professional Accountability
- [ ] Global Awareness/Diversity
- [X] Aesthetic Response

H. **SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):** None