Meetings: M-W 2-3:40 PM L & L 247 Class Meeting  
W 3:45-6 PM L & L 422 Film Screening

Instructor: Dr. Liahna Armstrong
Office: L & L 403F
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Office phone: x. 3178
Office hours: Tu 10:15-11; W 1-2; and by appt.

Texts:
Required:
- Occasional articles posted on Blackboard or handed out in class
- You must access full copies of each film not viewed in class. Most are available via Netflix DVD’s and/or Amazon.com Instant Video to rent for 2.99. The films are considered texts for the course and thus are mandatory.

Recommended for non-film majors:

Course description:
This course is designed to provide students with critical strategies for viewing and interpreting the cinematic canon of director (not actor) Clint Eastwood. We will study film as a mode of imaginative expression and a vehicle to transmit cultural ideology. In probing the works of Eastwood, we will explore the ways in which the director’s films both underscore and challenge mainstream cultural values and assumptions. We will examine the way Eastwood’s work matures in vision, style, ethical meaning, and cultural commentary. Students will build a vocabulary of critical language and theoretical concepts, developing progressively more sophisticated approaches to Eastwood’s works. Students will read basic critical material on the director’s films, view a number of the director’s signature works, both in class and independently, and write and make oral presentations on the course material.

Learner Outcomes:

By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to successfully:

- Demonstrate understanding of the characteristic features of the cinema of Clint Eastwood, including thematic, stylistic, technical, philosophical, psychoanalytic, generic, and cultural proclivities exhibited in Eastwood’s film canon, as well as show a comprehension of the ways the director utilized extensive film apparatus to effect meaning.
- Demonstrate the ability to approach and analyze Eastwood’s films using theoretically informed strategies.
- Articulate Eastwood’s legacy to Western cinema.
- Show knowledge of particular representative films from the auteur’s canon.

Assignments and Projects:

Students will engage in a series of regular written and oral exercises, designed to enhance their understanding of the Eastwood’s cinematic output, as well as to build familiarity with the concepts and vocabulary of film studies to enable them to convey meaningful insights about Eastwood’s films.

In addition to reading, viewing, and discussing, the course will entail:

Written Assignments

1. Regular short written assignments, a mixture of “viewer responses”, “viewing quizzes,” and analyses of readings.
   - “Viewing quizzes” (VQ) will be written in class. Students will answer one or two short, specific questions about aspects of the film viewed the previous Wednesday in class or over the weekend independently, and/or about relevant readings.
   - “Viewer responses” (VR) are short, focused written presentations (ca. one double spaced page or 250 words) that advance a clear argument in response to a specific question posed. Viewer responses may apply readings to films viewed. Students may be called upon to present the arguments in their papers orally in class.


Final Project:

Students will be subdivided into teams for the final project, which will be an oral group presentation. Instructions will be provided at a later date. Final projects will be presented in class on Wednesday, June 3. There will not be a final exam.

Evaluation Criteria:
Attendance/participation/discussion 25%
Viewer responses, quizzes, 30%
Tests 25%
Final project 20%

Expectations:

- Regular attendance is expected at both class meetings and film screenings. Please be on time, with cell phones and electronic devices turned off.

- We will normally view two films per week. On Wednesdays from 3:45-6 PM, we will screen films together as a class in L & L 422, that film to be discussed the following Monday. In addition, before class the following Wednesday, students will view a second film on their own. You will need to check out the dates of the films as listed in the syllabus, secure a copy by the viewing due date, watch it in time for class, and be prepared to discuss it and write about it. If you must miss a class viewing, you must locate a copy of that film on your own and view it before Monday's class. Readings should be completed by the day set for discussion.

- Written assignments may be submitted either as double-spaced hardcopy submitted in class on the due date, or emailed by class time as a Word document. For emailed papers, please put “Eastwood” in the subject line of the message.

- Late papers require advance permission.

- Bring syllabus, course notebook, and reading materials to class daily.

- All work submitted in this class must be your own work. The CWU Handbook states that plagiarism is a violation of University rules; plagiarism entails “buying, copying, borrowing, or otherwise using without proper credit another's ideas, evidence, examples, images, opinions, language, or other original material.” Plagiarism may result in course failure and/or disciplinary action. All sources consulted, even if you don’t quote from them, must be listed on each written assignment. You are strongly encouraged to consult sources as you write to enhance your analyses.

- Students with disabilities or special needs should see me: I will accommodate you in any and every way possible. You may consult with the Disability Support Services Office in Bouillon 205, x. 2171 for further information about assistance available.

Course Schedule:

Week 1
W 4/1 Introduction to Course

View Play Misty for Me (1971) in class

Week 2
M 4/6 Read: Vaux, vii-9; Sterritt, 1-23

Discuss Play Misty for Me

View on your own for Wed: The Outlaw Josie Wales (1976)

W 4/8 Read Vaux, 11-13; 22-38; Sterritt, 87-119
VQ on *The Outlaw Josie Wales* in class

Discuss *The Outlaw Josie Wales*

View *Sudden Impact* (1983) in class

**Week 3**

M 4/13 Read: Review Sterritt and add 127-128; HO on *Sudden Impact*

Discuss *Sudden Impact*

VR on *Sudden Impact* due

**View on your own for Wed:** *Pale Rider* (1985)

W 4/15 Read Vaux, 39-55; Sterritt, 140-149

Discuss *Pale Rider*

View *Bird* (1988) in class

**Week 4**

M 4/20 Read: Vaux, 124-135; Sterritt, 151-155

Discuss *Bird*

VR on *Bird* due

**View on your own for Wednesday:** *Unforgiven* (1992)

W 4/22 Read Vaux, 56-73; Sterritt, 166-173; HO on *Unforgiven*

Discuss *Unforgiven*

View *Midnight in the Garden of Eden* (1997) in class

Take home test #1 passed out; due M 4/27

**Week 5**

M 4/27 Read Sterritt, 180-182; HO on *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

Discuss *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*

Take home test # due in class (hardcopy)

**View on your own for Wednesday:** *True Crime* (1999)

W 4/29 Read Sterritt, 182-184; HO on *True Crime*

Discuss *True Crime*

View *Mystic River* (2003) in class

**Week 6**

M 5/4 Read Vaux, 79-95; Sterritt, 187-189); HO on *Mystic River*
Discuss *Mystic River*

VR on *Mystic River* due

No new film for Wednesday

W 5/6

Continue discussion of *Mystic River*

View *Million Dollar Baby* (2004) in class

**Week 7**

M 5/11

Read Vauz, 96-113; Sterritt, 190-194

Discuss *Million Dollar Baby*

VQ on *Million Dollar Baby* in class

**View on your own for Wednesday:** *Changeling* (2008)

W 5/13

Read Vaux, 114-123; Sterritt, 199-200

Discuss *Changeling*

Final project introduced; teams assigned

Take home test #2 passed out; due Mon 5/18

View in class *Gran Torino* (2008)

**Week 8**

M 5/18

Read Vaux, 166-185; Sterritt, 200-201

Discuss *Gran Torino*

Take home test #2 due in class (hard copy)

**View on your own for Wednesday:** *Invictus* (2009)

Take-home test #2 handed out; due M

W 5/20

Read Vaux, 187-196; Sterritt, 201-202

Discuss *Invictus*

View in class *American Sniper* (2014) ****

***This film is also being shown through the “Monday Movie Madness” series in the SURC Theater on April 13 at 7 and 9:30 PM

**Week 9**

M 5/25

No class: Memorial Day

W 5/27

Read HO on *American Sniper*
Discuss *American Sniper*

**Week 10**

M 6/1  Continue discussion of *American Sniper*

      Wrap up

W 6/3  Final project team presentations