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**Motion Picture History and Criticism**  
**TCF 112**  
Fall 2003

TEXT: Mast & Kawin: *A Short History of the Movies*, 8th ed.

GRADING: Tests:

Test 1	10 %
Test 2	20 %
Test 3	20 %
Test 4	20 %
Comprehensive final exam	30 %

Letter grades conform to the standard

100%-97% A+ 96-93% A 92%-90% A-  
89%-87% B+ 86%-83% B 82%-80% B-  
79%-77% C+ 76%-73% C 72%-70% C-  
69%-67% D+ 66%-63% D 62%-60% D-  
and 59.9% and less a F.

Rounding is not used in assigning course grades; e.g., an 89.6 is a B+ not an A-. I do not post final grades. I also do not give final grades over the telephone. You should be able to get your final grade by calling 1-888-UAGRADES. If you are curious about your grade along the way, keep track. Also, it is good to keep track of your tests scores in case there is a dispute over what your grade should be or there is a massive computer failure. For those who desire, grades will be available on the TCF 112 web site. The web site will have your test grades along with your current grade average for the class. You may calculate your grade by multiplying each grade by its respective percentage weight and summing the products.

The final grade that is assigned will not be changed unless there is a calculation or grade transcription error. In other words, there is not something "extra" that you may do to improve your final grade except those assignments and extra credit opportunities offered to all the class. Spare me having to tell you no by not asking.

**CALENDAR:**

An event calendar is attached which lists the dates on which readings should be completed, dates of tests, and the final exam period. There is a certain state of flux in the schedule so changes may be made as the semester proceeds. These changes will be announced in class but the calendar should serve as your guide to the semester.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Don't miss.

For the Monday-Wednesday class, attendance will be taken at each Monday lecture class session sometimes at the beginning of class, sometimes at the end, sometimes both. No attendance will be taken on Wednesday's, which are film days except for the first day of class. For the Wednesday night class, attendance will be taken during the lecture period and not during the movie.

If you miss more than three class sessions, your grade will be lowered one letter grade. If you miss more than five meetings, your grade will be no higher than a D.

No distinction is made as to an "excused" or an "unexcused" absence. Because of events or your personal desire, you may at some times not attend class. The reasons are your personal affair. If you aren't in class, you are absent.

Attendance starts from the first day in class even if you add after the first day. This means that if you add the class after the first day, the days you have missed because you weren't registered are COUNTED as absences.

**READINGS:**

It is your responsibility to keep up with the assigned readings. Trying to do all the readings the night before an exam will be difficult so stay current. Class time will usually not be used to review the reading assignments, as additional material will be covered.

**EXAMINATIONS:**

The tests and the final exam will primarily use multiple choice matching, and true/false questions but other types such as fill-in, lists, short answer and other varieties may also be used.

FINAL EXAM: The final exam will be a comprehensive examination that will be given on the date and time listed in the schedule of courses. The exam will not be given early so don't beg. (I hate to see student's groveling on their hands and knees. It makes mud puddles on my not too clean floor.)

MAKE-UPS: You must receive permission in *advance* to be allowed to make-up a missed exam or test. Contact me or Ginger to let us know that you will not be able to take the test. Some consideration *may* be given to those who missed the examination without previous permission but the reason should be extraordinary.

Make-ups are the exception and not the rule. Contact Ginger to schedule your make-up. All make-ups will be given the next Wednesday at 4:45 in 228 Phifer. If this date and time conflicts with another class please let Ginger know so that a possible alternative may be arranged.

WEB SITE: There is a website for the class. As indicated at the top of this syllabus its URL is WWW.TCF.UA.EDU. Select courses and then TCF 112 for Fall 2003. At this site you will find, course information such as you will find in this syllabus, a schedule of course activities, class notes and course grades.

CLASS ETIQUETTE: For some reason, some people have forgotten all those little rules of classroom etiquette that they learned and observed in high school. So let me help you cast your mind back to yesteryear--a time of cheeseburgers, bobby socks and cherry Cokes (OK so this was my high school years, just play along). First, there is no talking in class. This applies both to when there is a lecture and when the movies are showing. If you are talking in class, you will first be asked to stop and then you'll be asked to leave if the talking persists. Second, there is no reading newspapers while the class is in session. If the paper is more interesting than the class (and it might be sometimes—oh OK, most of the time) read it before class or don't come to class. Third, class is completed when I excuse class not when the credits roll. For those in the night class, there may be one or two nights where class will be longer than the allotted time. Stay, I'll give you back the time on another evening. Fourth, if you must leave class while the movie is running sit in the back of the room on the side of the rear door. Exit quietly through the backdoor. Fifth, if you arrive late for class, please enter through the rear door. Finally, there is no food or drink in the room.

PROBLEMS:

If you are having problems with any aspect of the course, please come and see me. I know that it is hard to actually go see a professor in his or her office. Who really knows what unspeakable things go on in those small dark cubicles? I'm really a nice guy (no, really, honest--at least my mother says so) and sincere in the invitation to come see me.

I should always be available during my office hours for drop-in consultation. If the problem seems serious, complex, and/or you have a time conflict with my office hours, we can schedule a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

At other times I have an "open door" policy. If the door is open, you are invited to drop in. If the door is closed, I'm either not in my office or under some deadline and don't wish to be disturbed.

DISCLAIMER:

Any of the above may change. Changes will be announced in class.

## THE ASSISTANT DEAN'S STUFF:

If you have not satisfactorily completed all course and grade prerequisites, you will be administratively disenrolled on or before the first day of class.

Students who do not attend the first class meeting of a once a week class, two meetings of a Tuesday-Thursday course or the first three meetings of a Monday-Wednesday-Friday course will be administratively disenrolled. Students who are in the College of Communication must earn a "C" or better in all required and elective courses in their major. A "C" or better is required in all external courses required by College of Communication majors whether they serve as a prerequisite to a major course or are simply required by the major.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. All acts of dishonesty in any academic work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

- 1) Cheating--using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.
- 2) Plagiarism--representing the words, ideas, or data of another as one's own in any academic exercise.
- 3) Fabrication--unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- 4) Aiding and abetting academic dishonesty--intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty.

### **Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated in this class.**

The following is the text of the academic honor code you promised to abide by:

"I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved in cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedures that will result from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the university."

### **DISABILITIES:**

To request disability accommodations, please contact Disabilities Services (348-4285). After initial arrangements are made with Disabilities Services, contact me.

And a special hello to retentive accreditors who would read all this fine print.

## Calendar of Events Monday-Wednesday

August 20

Intro to class  
Chapters 1-3  
Lumière Shorts  
Méliès *A Trip to the Moon*

August 25

Chapters 4 & 6

August 27

*Sherlock, Jr.*

September 3

Chapter 7  
M

September 8

Chapter 8

September 10

*Battleship Potemkin*  
**Quiz 1**

September 15

Chapter 10, 11 (234-270)

September 17

*Stagecoach*

September 22

The Interlude: Black-Market  
Cinema

September 24

*Girl from Chicago*

September 29

October 1

*The Awful Truth*  
**Quiz 2**

October 6

Chapter 11 (270-283)

October 8

*Citizen Kane*

October 13

Chapter 9,12

October 15

*Singin' in the Rain*

October 20

Chapter 13 (325-347)

October 22

*Open City*

**Quiz 3**

October 27

Chapter 13 (348-379)

October 29

*Vivre sa vie*

November 3

Chapter 14 (pp.380-406, 415-445)

November 5

*Rashomon*

November 10

Chapter 15

November 12

*2001: A Space Odyssey*

November 17

November 19

*Hopscotch*

**Quiz 4**

November 24

Chapter 16 (pp. 486-496, 509-519)

November 26

*The American Friend*

December 1

Chapter 17

December 3

*Roger and Me*

December 9

11:30-2:00 pm **FINAL EXAM**



## Calendar of Events Wednesday Nights

August 20

Intro to class  
Chapters 1-3  
Lumière Shorts  
Méliès *A Trip to the Moon*

August 27

Chapters 4 & 6  
*Sherlock, Jr.*

September 3

Chapter 7  
*M*

September 10

Chapter 8  
*Battleship Potemkin*  
**Quiz 1**

September 17

Chapter 10, 11 (234-270)  
*Stagecoach*

September 24

The Interlude: Black-Market  
Cinema  
*Girl from Chicago*

October 1

*The Awful Truth*  
**Quiz 2**

October 8

Chapter 11 (270-283)  
*Citizen Kane*

October 15

Chapter 9, 12  
*Singin' in the Rain*

October 22

Chapter 13 (325-347)  
*Open City*

**Quiz 3**

October 29

Chapter 13 (348-379)  
*Vivre sa vie*

November 5

Chapter 14 (pp. 380-406, 415-445)  
*Rashomon*

November 12

Chapter 15  
*2001: A Space Odyssey*

November 19

*Hopscotch*  
**Quiz 4**

December 3

Chapter 16 (pp. 486-496, 509-519) and Chapter 17  
*Roger and Me*

December 9

7-9:30 pm **FINAL EXAM**