

Introduction to Film Studies (ENGL 2912)

Credit Hour: 4

Teaching Mode: In Person

Schedule: Monday to Friday (12.30 PM – 3.20 PM)

Instructor: Furrugh A. Khan

Course Description:

Film is one of the most widely recognized phenomenon of the modern world, which started in the late nineteenth century and continues to chart a successful commercial and cultural path for itself. It serves various functions from projecting of an individual or national identity to indemnifying base stereotypes of others. Films fulfill needs of a plethora of audiences' tastes, from art-lovers to children's fairy-tales, and in the process, developing ever more dynamic ways to tell a story. Films are used to glorify nationalist struggles and to re-write or in some cases, re-enforce historical perspectives. This course will attempt to introduce students not only to the technological history of the films, in which we will examine various material stages of the making of films, we will also find out about different phases of history in the major producing industries. The course will entail paying close attention to tools of film-making such as editing, sound, cinematography, narrative and mise-en-scene to acquire familiarity about the technical and artistic steps in process that eventually ends up with a product known as a film. A close and detailed attention will be paid to the scholarship on films and different academic lens' through which this artistic and cultural spectacle is viewed. Readings will focus on Formalism, Surrealism, Feminism and Colonial perspectives to name but a few to study various ways that scholars analyze films, such steps would then be put up with our personal opinions to examine the resultant discourse.

Films shown in this course will try to cover the broadest possible spectrum, with the full knowledge that it will be impossible to cover all that one really wants to or ought to. Because of the limitations of time and particular bias, only a limited selection of films will be shown, if we somehow miss your favorite film, there are opportunities for you to talk about it during the presentation or the final research paper.