

Spring, 2012

FILM 240

Bruce G. Nims

Text

Baughman, James L. *The Republic of Mass Culture*. 3rd ed.

Learning Outcomes

1. From the textbook readings, students will gain a basic knowledge of the history of film, broadcasting, and newspapers in twentieth century American culture, especially how these media reflected and affected evolving cultural norms.
2. Students will view and analyze representative films and television programs, and through essay and identification responses to questions on examinations, demonstrate that they can reflect in an informed manner on several themes: the relationship of media to reality, the social and political implications of media presentation, the competition among media in post-World War II America, and the evolving status of various media in American life up to the start of the cable TV era.

Course Outline

Class Week	Assignment/Viewing	Graded Work
<u>January</u>		
10-12	Introduction	
17-19	<i>Citizen Kane</i> Kane Handout,	
24-26	<i>The Battle Over Citizen Kane</i>	
<u>February</u>		
Jan. 31-Feb. 2	Baughman, Chaps. 1-2	Test #1
7-9	Baughman, Chap. 3, <i>Superman TV Series</i>	
14-16	<i>Patterns</i> (Live TV Drama)	
21-23	<i>Singing in the Rain</i> Baughman, Chap. 4	
<u>March</u>		
Feb. 28-Mar. 1		Test #2

6-8	Spring Break	
13-15	Beatles on <i>Ed Sullivan Show</i> , <i>TAMI Show</i> Baughmn, Chap. 5	
20-22	<i>Bonnie and Clyde</i> . B&C Handout	
27-29	Baughman, Chap. 6	
<u>April</u>		
3-5		Test 3
10-12	Baughman, Chap. 7	
17-19	<i>Blade Runner</i>	
May 1		Test 4

Policies

Testing: All the major tests will consist of definition, identification, and essay questions, with the essay questions given the greater weight. Test questions will be drawn from the assigned text readings, instructor-prepared handouts, the lectures, and the films/television shows themselves. The final examination will not be cumulative.

Grading: Each of the three major tests, the final examination, and the critical review will count one-fifth of the final grade. The final examination will simply be a fourth major test on the material covered between July 28 and August 3. The grading scale is as follows: A, 90-100; B, 80-89; C, 70-79; D, 60-69; F, below 60. The last day to drop a course without receiving a grade of WF is **February 27**.

Readings: Readings from the textbook are listed in the syllabus by chapter. Sometimes an entire chapter will be assigned, but you may also be given specific pages to read in a given chapter. The test review handout that you will receive before every test will make clear exactly which pages in the text will be testable. All handouts will be testable as well.

Film Viewing: All of the DVDs for the course will be available to check out to view in the library (the preferred method) or at home overnight. No film can be checked out before 7 p.m. weekdays or 5 p.m. Sundays. Films must be returned by 9:30 a.m. **the next day**. Abuse of this policy can result in grade penalties.

Academic Honesty: All tests will be administered under an honor system. To help the honor system work, the following policies are in effect: (1) On test days do not bring any books, notes, or paper to the classroom-- only your pen. I will provide all paper. (2)

If you observe dishonesty of any kind during the test, please report it to me. I will protect your anonymity. (3) I will investigate any evidence of dishonesty, to include plagiarism on out of class papers, and if such dishonesty is proved, I will impose sanctions. These sanctions may involve failure for the test or essay, failure for the course, or dismissal from the course.

Academic Disturbance Policy: Disturbances in classes, labs, during field trips, lectures, presentations, and other academic activities may result in one or more of the following sanctions: verbal reprimand, written warning, permanent dismissal from the class, suspension from the University for a period of time, or permanent suspension from the University. If a student is dismissed from a class after the last day to withdraw from classes, the student will receive an F grade in the class. A student may appeal verbal reprimand, written warning, or permanent dismissal from the class to the Academic Dean. A student may appeal suspension from the University for a period of time or permanent suspension from the University to the Vice Provost for Regional Campuses.

Attendance: Because class attendance is essential for the film viewings, **anyone with more than three unexcused absences will be subject to penalties up to and including one letter on the final grade.** You can be excused for an absence in three ways: (1) prior agreement with the instructor; (2) legible physician's or clinic excuse for illness or injury; (3) obituary or funeral program for a death in the family. Once I have warned you about habitual tardiness, each tardiness to class will count as one-half an absence.

Office Hours (Bradley 218):

MW: 10:00-11:45 am; 2:00-3:00 pm

TTh: 11:00-11:45 am; 2:00-3:30 pm

F: 10:00-11:30 am

Office Phone-- 803-313-7047

Home Phone-- 803-547-0291 (before 9 p.m.)

E-Mail-- bnims@mailbox.sc.edu (No Blackboard email access presently available.)