

**Utah Valley State College**  
**Fall 2005**  
**Comm 3400: Film Theory**

**Short Syllabus**

This is a short version of the syllabus. Please access the longer version of the syllabus that contains the course reading and assignment schedule on the course web page at:

**<http://research.uvsc.edu/albrecht-crane/3400/main.htm>**

**Instructor Information:**

Christa Albrecht-Crane, Ph.D.

Office: LA 121 U

Phone: 863-6286

Office Hours: MWF 9-10, 11-12, and by appointment

email: [albrecc@uvsc.edu](mailto:albrecc@uvsc.edu)

web page: <http://research.uvsc.edu/albrecht-crane>

**Required Texts:**

1. Corrigan, Timothy. *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*. 5th ed. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2004. ISBN: 0321096657.

2. A large number of articles that are available for printing through the UVSC Library course reserve system. Refer to the on-line syllabus for details.

**Course Description:**

This course provides an advanced introduction to the substantial field of film theory and is intended for juniors and seniors only. Equal attention will be given to the serious study of individual films and film theory scholarship. This course is very reading and writing intensive and demands a high commitment in terms of time, dedication, and seriousness.

Students in this course are required to watch seven films (either in screenings on campus or on their own). Several of the films are rated "R," and must be watched in their original form. If this is a problem, students should consider dropping the course and/or taking another communications class.

**Attendance:**

It is required. Students may miss three class periods, but each additional absence will affect the course grade. Anyone with more than seven absences will not pass the course.

**Participation:**

In this course students are expected to be active learners and to take responsibility for their work. I expect that students (1) come to class on a regular basis, (2) do the required readings before class, and (3) are prepared to discuss what they've read. I do not tolerate "fluff" contributions and disruptions. Participation/attendance counts as 15% of the final course grade (see grading outline below).

**Required Writing:**

Students are required to write one movie review on each movie we watch (for a total of seven reviews), one critical essay (800-1000 words), and a research-based theoretical essay (1000-1200 words). All written assignments are due at the start of class--no exceptions, no late papers.

In addition to the papers, I will do reading quizzes at the beginning of each class period for which there is a reading. Quizzes cannot be made up.

**Grading Outline:**

participation/attendance:	15%
reading quizzes:	15%
movie reviews:	30%
critical essay:	15%
theoretical essay:	20%
final exam:	5%

**Course calendar:**

The calendar is available on the on-line portion of the syllabus and contains the reading schedule, assignment due dates, and screening dates. It is the students' responsibility to follow the calendar and make note of any changes.

**Classroom etiquette:**

Cell phones, beepers, pagers, etc. **MUST BE TURNED OFF** during class time. Do not text-message during class or check your email. Class members should treat each other with respect and a productive attitude.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Please get in touch with me right away if you have any disability that might impair your ability to complete this course. You must also contact the Accessibility Services Department on campus. Academic accommodations are granted for all students who have qualified documented disabilities.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Each student in this course is expected to maintain academic ethics and avoid dishonesty in any form. There's no room for any form of cheating or plagiarism. If you use any information from web pages in your papers, please cite them correctly. You may not "cut" and "paste" from web sites. Please submit your own work. If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism and what does not, please raise those questions in class and we can all talk about them.

**Reading for Friday, Aug. 26:**

Denby, David. "The Current Cinema: Dirty Business." *The New Yorker* 29 Aug. 2005.  
<[http://www.newyorker.com/printables/critics/050829crci\\_cinema](http://www.newyorker.com/printables/critics/050829crci_cinema)>.

**This syllabus and the detailed on-line syllabus are subject to change if the need arises.**