Faculty Information:
To obtain the name and contact information of the course section instructor, go to the 'Home' page of your course in the Canvas LMS, and click the 'Instructor' icon.
Learning Management System: http://canvas.ou.edu/

Course Meeting Time and Location:
Online

Course Prerequisite:
Sophomore standing or permission from CLS academic adviser

Course Delivery:
Online

Catalog Description:
An exploration of film noir as an art form through the perspectives of history, sociology, psychology, philosophy, and technology. Topics include the intellectual and literary origins of film noir and the genre's impact on filmmaking and culture.

Course Goals:
An introduction to the universe labeled “film noir,” this course is a guided study exploring the development and influences of this unique—though not strictly American—approach to moviemaking and the style that evolved from it. We will consider film noir as not only entertainment but as a mirror of the culture in which it thrived (during the classical period, 1941-1958) and in its emergence—as neo-noir—in the years since. We will explore the roots of noir in various artistic movements—specifically, post-impressionism and German expressionism—and as an outgrowth of literary movements—most prominently, naturalism. Of course, film noir was produced to entertain the masses in the 1940s and 1950s, but our exploration of this art form also will include the perspectives of history, sociology, psychology, and philosophy. In this course, we will view representative films and discuss how film noir has played out in our past and contemporary culture, not simply in terms of the movies but in our attitudes, styles, and worldview.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Identify the historical, sociological, philosophical, and artistic framework for understanding the rise and development of film noir.
2. List the characteristics of film noir as they are revealed in a number of past and more recent films.
3. Be able to identify the most prominent examples of films noirs, including the key directors, actors, writers, and production crew members and state how these individuals contributed to this art form.
4. Critique specific films noir and infer what each conveys about the society in which it was created.
5. Analyze the interrelationships of movies, art, music, and philosophy as they are manifested in film noir.
6. Formulate and express your own worldview whether it is influenced by film noir or by other cultural and sociological phenomena.

Texts and Materials:
No Textbooks Required
Teaching Philosophy:

We in the College of Liberal Studies (CLS) believe that higher education is a crucial ingredient in becoming a successful, personally fulfilled human being and an actively engaged citizen of the state, nation, and world. Further, we operate with the foundational assumption that a University of Oklahoma education should be available to all qualified students regardless of their age, geographic location, or life circumstance.

Acting on these assumptions, CLS strives to create significant and meaningful learning experiences through online and accelerated course delivery methods. All CLS courses incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives and provide students with a well-rounded, life-enriching liberal education combined with specialized study in selected program areas, thus preparing them for ever higher levels of learning. CLS faculty members provide instruction, encouragement, timely response, and constructive feedback to broaden and deepen the student's understanding of course materials.

We understand that adult learners prefer, and have the best achievement, within a collaborative and interactive learning environment, while functioning on their own personal schedules. We also believe that all students are capable of learning and we aspire to enable students' self-agency in attaining their personal learning goals.

Expectations:

You can expect instructors to:

- Challenge you to think about and understand the material in this course.
- Encourage you to learn the material in the course and become a lifelong learner.
- Be available to return e-mails in a timely fashion, within 24-48 hours.
- Return written assignments in a week or less, quizzes and exams in 72 hours or less.
- Engage you in discussion.
- Provide feedback.

As the student, you are expected to:

- Accept responsibility for your learning.
- Be engaged in the course by logging in to the course every week, reading course announcements, knowing when assignments are due, and turning in all assignments on time.
- Set aside enough time to read and understand assigned course materials, successfully complete quizzes and tests, actively participate in class discussions, and write thoughtful essays and research papers. Many CLS courses are offered in compressed formats, so the time devoted to each class per week should be adjusted accordingly.
- Read and apply feedback.
- Use only the OU email address for all OU correspondence and assignments.
- Have all textbooks and course materials before the class starts.
- Use the “Ask the Professor” discussion board in the discussion section of https://canvas.ou.edu if you have a question about something related to the course curriculum. If your question is of a personal nature (“My mother is having surgery next week and will be 4 days late on my assignment…”), email the faculty member directly.
- Ask your advisor if you have questions about your degree program or other questions not related to a specific course.
- Have a reliable computer and a reliable Internet connection. Do some pre-planning and have a backup plan ready in the event you should have computer or Internet problems.
- Load all assignments in Canvas; do not email assignments to the professor.
- Practice your writing skills. Familiarize yourself with the Grammarly self-edit tool provided to CLS to check your papers prior to submission for grading.

Learning Activities and Assessments

Activities:

1. Readings - Required reading includes the assigned textbook as well as various assigned articles related to the course outcomes.
2. Online Discussions - Students engage in meaningful dialog related to the assigned readings and video viewing requirements. This activity requires students to make an initial post and reply to peers and must cite the assigned works in their remarks.
3. Videos - The assigned videos provide an introduction to leading to ideas from contemporary experts in the field

Assessments:
1. Quizzes (2 @ 100 points) - Students complete two quizzes, one following unit two and the second following unit four. Quizzes will include completion, matching, true/false, and brief essay questions based on assigned readings and film viewings.

2. Journal Entries (4 @ 25 points) - For each unit students will write and submit journal entries (approximately 350 words) outlining their responses to viewing any of the films noirs listed on the course web site. In addition to providing routine information about the film viewed (director, screenwriter, film editor, cinematographer, brief summary), each entry will discuss compelling camera techniques, lighting techniques, sound techniques, and elements of the director’s style.

3. Discussions (4 @ 25 points) - One discussion board question will be posted at the beginning of each unit. These questions will relate to the Cain, Hammett, and Spicer texts.

4. Directed Response Paper (1 @ 150 points) -

5. Essay (3 @ 150 points) - Students will complete one essay for each of the first three units. Each of these essays will be 4-6 pages in length and fully address the chosen topic for that unit (students will be given topics from which to choose). In unit four, students will write a directed response paper analyzing a scene of their choice from the film Chinatown. In this essay, they will draw on what they have learned over the preceding three units in a close examination of this neo-noir film.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
<th>Quizzes (2 @ 100 points)</th>
<th>Journal Entries (4 @ 25 points)</th>
<th>Discussions (4 @ 25 points)</th>
<th>Directed Response Paper (1 @ 150 points)</th>
<th>Essay (3 @ 150 points)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify the historical, sociological, philosophical, and artistic framework for understanding the rise and development of film noir.</td>
<td>Readings Online Discussions Videos</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>List the characteristics of film noir as they are revealed in a number of past and more recent films.</td>
<td>Readings Online Discussions Videos</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be able to identify the most prominent examples of films noirs, including the key directors, actors, writers, and production crew members and state how these individuals contributed to this art form.</td>
<td>Readings Online Discussions Videos</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critique specific films noir and infer what each conveys about the society in which it was created.</td>
<td>Readings Online Discussions Videos</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analyze the interrelationships of movies, art, music, and philosophy as they are manifested in film noir.</td>
<td>Readings Online Discussions Videos</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formulate and express your own worldview whether it is influenced by film noir or by other cultural and sociological phenomena.</td>
<td>Readings Online Discussions Videos</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum Points</td>
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</tbody>
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Tentative Schedule:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Unit Dates</th>
<th>Learning Topics / Activities</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes Addressed</th>
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<th>Assessment Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 19 – 31</td>
<td>The Roots of Noir</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>Essay, Journal, Discussion</td>
<td>January 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>February 1 – 14</td>
<td>Early Noir and Classic Noir</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Essay, Journal, Discussion, Quiz</td>
<td>February 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 15 – 27</td>
<td>Classic Noir</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Essay, Journal, Discussion</td>
<td>February 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 28 – March 13</td>
<td>Neo-Noir</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Directed Response, Journal, Discussion, Quiz</td>
<td>March 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Grade:

- A = 900 or above
- B = 800 - 899
- C = 700 - 799
- D = 600 - 699
- F = 599 or below

Grading Procedures

Students will submit assignments in Canvas at http://canvas.ou.edu/ Assignments will be graded, with comments, and returned to the student. Privacy will be maintained and student grades will not be publicly posted. This course is letter-graded.

Withdrawal ('W') Policy

Because the College of Liberal Studies offers courses in multiple class session lengths throughout the academic year, please refer to the CLS academic advising website for rules and schedules regarding the College and University’s withdrawal policies, procedures, and deadlines: http://www.ou.edu/content/cls/advising-support.html

Dropping or withdrawing from a course may have an effect on your Financial Aid. Contact Financial Aid before you drop or withdraw from a course after the term has started. lsaid.ou.edu, 405-325-2929.

Assignment Completion Policy

The College of Liberal Studies expects students to complete all assignments to earn a final grade in a given course.

Incomplete ('I') Policy

For sufficiently extenuating circumstances a student may receive a grade of ‘I’ and receive an extension to complete. To receive a grade of ‘I’ a CLS student must satisfactorily complete a minimum of one-half of the course work, have a legitimate reason for not being able to complete the work during the normal time frame of the course, receive permission of the instructor, and sign an Incomplete Contract Agreement Form. The Incomplete Contract will be completed by the instructor and include a reason for the ‘I’ grade, a description of the remaining assignments due, and the final due date for submitting these assignments for grading.

In most cases, the time allotted to complete the remaining assignments for a CLS course will not exceed 120 days. The maximum time limit allowed by the University of Oklahoma for completion of an ‘I’ is one calendar year. No CLS student may enroll in a subsequent semester with two or more active ‘I’ grades.

Please refer to the CLS academic advising website for more information regarding the College and University’s Incomplete Policies and Procedures: http://www.ou.edu/content/cls/advising-support.html
Additional Support for Learning

The College of Liberal Studies provides links to writing resources in the Content section of each Canvas course section. If you have questions about assignment requirements or would like to request feedback on a rough draft, you are encouraged to communicate with your course instructors while giving them enough lead time to respond before assignments are due.

The OU Writing Center is a wonderful resource available to all students and is funded in part by your student course fees. The Writing Center is equipped to help students both online and in-person: [http://www.ou.edu/content/writingcenter.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/writingcenter.html)

OU Libraries resources are available to all CLS students, including the ability to live chat, e-mail, and/or call a reference librarian with questions you may have about finding and evaluating sources for research papers: [http://libraries.ou.edu](http://libraries.ou.edu); [http://guides.ou.edu/CLS](http://guides.ou.edu/CLS)

Additional CLS Policies

**Absences & Late Work:** While CLS faculty members are expected to communicate with the class throughout the academic session, it is your responsibility to maintain personal communication with your instructors. If you need to miss a class (on-site), or if you are going to be delayed in submitting assignments (online), you should make all efforts to contact your faculty members in advance to let them know about your situation. Keep in mind that in most cases it is at the discretion of the instructor whether to grant an extension or apply late penalties to an assignment received after the posted deadline. Instructors are also allowed to set penalties for missing on-site class sessions.

Faculty members are not obligated to initiate contact with you before giving assignment or final grades. If you have several absences (on-site classes) or outstanding/late assignments, your grade may be seriously impacted.

**Netiquette:** The College of Liberal Studies has established a set of Netiquette Guidelines to be followed when communicating with your classmates and instructors. This information is available in the Content section of each Canvas course section and should be reviewed before participating in your first discussion topic. Failure to abide by these guidelines can lead to sanctions as outlined in the OU Student Rights and Responsibilities Code: [http://www.ou.edu/content/dam/studentlife/documents/AllCampusStudentCode.pdf](http://www.ou.edu/content/dam/studentlife/documents/AllCampusStudentCode.pdf)

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