

English 489.001 (22971), Independent Study: Major Films and Filmmakers / Instructor: Gerald Duchovnay

Description:

Independent studies most often develop as a result of a student's desire to continue studies pursued in a course or a new interest that is not accommodated by normal course offerings. This independent study has developed as a result of an interest of two students in pursuing a widening interest in major films and filmmakers and the arc of film history.

Plan of Study: The students and I will meet weekly to discuss the readings and the writings on the topic of major films and filmmakers. We will link our discussions to the viewing of films and responses related to the viewing of the films.

Objectives:

- 1) To achieve an overview and understanding of major films and filmmakers;
- 2) To understand the critical reception of some significant films;
- 3) To exam two particular films and/or filmmakers and write up two studies of those films/filmmakers;
- 4) Circumstances permitting, to demonstrate an application of the knowledge gained about the film and/or filmmaker by presenting that information to other students studying film.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of some major films and filmmakers of U.S. and international cinema;
2. Students will demonstrate enhanced skills in visual and film historical literacy in more significant ways than before this independent study;
3. Students will demonstrate a familiarity with ways of discussing and evaluating films as reflections of particular filmmakers, or cultures, or periods of history;
4. Students will engage in analysis of films in oral and written communication that goes beyond surface level discussions of narrative or character.

Required Work:

- 1) Two papers of 6-10 pages based, each based on a particular film or filmmaker.
- 2) An annotated bibliography to accompany one of the two papers that will include, minimally, three substantive reviews of the movie (350+ words) and a minimum of ten substantive scholarly/academic sources related to the film or filmmaker under discussion.
- 3) Written responses to some of the films viewed and material examined.