

English 689.002 (23067), Independent Study: The Films of Terrence Malick / 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 in synthesizing literary studies with film and film theory as related to an understanding of the films of Terrence Malick.

**Plan of Study:** The student and I will meet and discuss the readings and the writings on the topic of Terrence Malick once every two weeks and will link it to both discussion and analysis of the films and the critical material (scholarly materials, reviews) available on Malick. Since this is an independent study, the student will work on readings and writings suitable to what might be taught in a film class focusing on a particular filmmaker.

**Objectives:**

- 1) To achieve an overview and understanding of the films of Terrence Malick
- 2) To understand the critical reception of Malick's films;
- 3) To exam a particular film or films in a presentation suitable for a conference presentation or a draft of a scholarly article;
- 4) Circumstances permitting, to demonstrate an application of the knowledge gained about the filmmaker by teaching about one of Malick's films to a film class.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Student will demonstrate an understanding of key aspects of Terrence Malick's films via discussion and an annotated bibliography;
2. Student will demonstrate skills in visual literacy related to Malick's filmed texts by writing either a paper suitable for a conference presentation or a draft of a scholarly article;
3. Circumstances permitting, the student will demonstrate ways of discussing and evaluating Malick's films based by presenting one of his films to a film class.

**Required Work:**

- 1) An annotated bibliography of scholarly and critical materials and reviews related to Malick's films.
- 2) A paper 10-24 pages, applying some approach to one or more of Malick's films that would be suitable for a conference presentation or a draft of a scholarly article suitable for submission to a refereed journal.
- 3) Circumstances permitting, a presentation and discussion of a Malick film to a film class.

By doing this research and applying it to at least one film, the student will go from the general understanding of Malick's films, to the more specific (critical analysis of one or more filmed texts), to the very specific (written document and, circumstances permitting, class presentation). The focus, then, will be to merge theory with practical application. Also, as a result of this research, the student has the opportunity to teach a class related to Terrence Malick, thus bringing together the theoretical, practical, and pedagogical.