



WEST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS

Division: Arts & Performance | **Course name:** Cinema 003

Section Number: 12237 | **Semester:** Winter 2025 | **Units:** 3 | **Hours:** 3

Transferable to both UC and CSU

Instructor Name: Jennifer Penton

Instructor E-mail: pentonjk@wla.edu

Class Days & Hours: MTWR, 8 – 10:30 am

Website & Phone: www.wla.edu | 310-287-4200

Address: 9000 Overland Ave, Culver City CA 90230

Class Location: LAPD ARTC & Canvas Hybrid

Office Location: Zoom ID 932 729 6385 | LAPD ARTC Classroom 1 | WLAC ATA 212

Office Phone Number: 310-853-2043

Office Hours: Fridays 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and any time by Appointment

Pre-requisites, Co-requisites: None

Advisory: English 101 or English 028

Canvas Link: <https://ilearn.laccd.edu/courses/301382>

Welcome:

Welcome to Cinema 3, The History of Motion Pictures. I am here to guide you along a really fun journey -- enjoying and exploring movies! Together, we will examine the history of the development of motion pictures with examples, from their beginnings to the present day, with an emphasis on the American feature film. Through interactive discussions, fantastic viewing experiences, thoughtful writing opportunities, and even some fun and exciting extra credit opportunities, we will dive deep into the history of motion pictures.

Course Description:

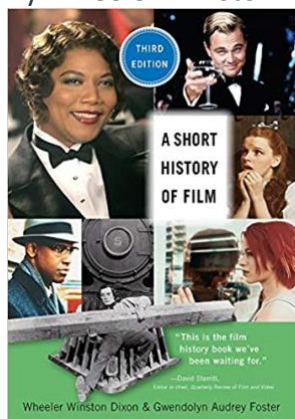
This course examines classics and important films from the birth of the medium to the present time. Films are screened and discussed with regard to their cultural influence. The course follows the evolution of the art, economics, industry and technology involved in movie making.

Required Texts & Material:

Access to the Internet and access to the textbook, provided through the WLAC website:

[A Short History of Film, 3rd Edition](#)

By Wheeler Winston Dixon & Gwendolyn Audrey Foster:



[Read your Textbook](#)

Canvas and Welcome Center support:

This course will use the Canvas Learning Management System. For Canvas support, please contact the [WLAC Help Desk](#). For the [WLAC Welcome Center](#) and to reset passwords, please call (310)287-7251 or go to this [WLAC Welcome Center link](#).

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Name significant films and filmmakers of the 20th century.
2. Assess how films influence audiences.
3. Recognize propaganda.
4. Define issues of censorship and self regulation in the film industry.
5. Review how films were made in the past from business and artistic views.
6. Recognize how the technology of movie-making is used to enhance the film narrative.
7. Evaluate the impact of film on society.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs), per Administrative Policy 4221:

At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to evaluate the impact of a film on society.
2. At the end of the program, a successful student will be able to apply film and theatre arts history for analysis of current scripts and screenplays.
3. At the end of the course, a successful student will be able to name significant films and filmmakers of the 20th century.

Office Hours: I am available in person, and by zoom, email, or phone. I am also available in my zoom room for you to just drop by on Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at Zoom ID 932 729 6385. If you would like to schedule a zoom meeting with me during my office hours or any other time, please email me through the Canvas Inbox. Please note:

- It is always better to email me through the Canvas Inbox ahead of time to explain to me how I can help you, so I can be better prepared to help you when we meet.
- To avoid waiting in the Zoom waiting room during office hours, you can email me through the Canvas Inbox ahead of time to make an actual appointment with me scheduled during my office hours or any other time.

Instructor Response Time: I will respond to all canvas emails or discussion questions within two business days.

Assessment Policy: All students will be able to see their grades in a timely manner. Quiz grades will show in the canvas grade book instantly, while discussion and essay grades will appear within five business days of submission. If you have any inquiries regarding your grade, please contact me by email and I will respond within two business days.

Expectations: It is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor regarding your understanding of the course materials. You are also responsible for keeping up with the assignments and participating in class discussions, as participation is an important aspect of your grade. Should illness or personal problems affect your course work, please contact me as soon as possible through the Canvas Inbox or at pentonjk@wlac.edu.

Coursework: As you work through the Modules, you will explore the history of Motion Pictures in an exciting way. Please ensure that you complete all assignments, essays / projects, and quizzes so that you may advance through the modules. Ensure that you do not miss deadlines, so that you will gain as much of an understanding of the history of motion pictures as possible, and so that you will excel in the course.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Work Plan: The course work plan consists of the following elements:

1. Textbook reading and/or movie viewing assignments.
2. Class discussions.
3. Projects and/or essays.
4. Quizzes / Exams.

Attendance and Exclusion: You are expected to attend class and to log in and complete assignments and discussions on a regular basis. If you do not meet these requirements, the instructor may exclude you, therefore dropping you from the course. However, **it is your responsibility to ensure that you withdraw from the course to avoid receiving a D or F, rather than assuming that you will be dropped.**

Withdrawing from a Class: The "W" symbol may be used to denote withdrawal in accordance with the requirements of Title 5 Section 55024. Withdrawal from a class shall be authorized through the last day of the fourteenth week of instruction or 75% of the time the class is scheduled to meet whichever is less. No notation ("W" or other) shall be made on the record of a student who withdraws before the census date of the course. Withdrawal between the end of the fourth week (or 30% of the time the class is scheduled to meet, whichever is less) and the last day of the fourteenth week of instruction (or 75% of the time the class is scheduled to meet, whichever is less) shall be authorized after informing the appropriate faculty. A student who remains in class beyond the fourteenth week or 75% of the time the class is scheduled shall be given a grade other than a "W", except in cases of extenuating circumstances. Please see page 313 of the [2024 – 2025 WLAC College Catalog](#) for more information.

PLEASE NOTE: Since this is the Winter Session, the above may be different. To find the correct date in your student portal, please select Manage Classes then Browse Course Catalog. Find the course, click on it and then go to the Enrollment Information tab to view important dates.

Evaluation: Grading in this course is based on a cumulative number of 1000 points earned from quizzes, essays, and projects. Grades are assigned on a percentage basis.

900 – 1000+ points:	90% – 100%	= A
800 – 899 points:	80% – 89%	= B
700 – 799 points:	70% – 79%	= C
600 – 699 points:	60% – 69%	= D
< 600 points:	< 60%	= F

Grading Will Cover:

1. Eight short essays, each worth 50 points.

2. One Midterm and One Final Exam, each worth 100 points, *starting at a designated time and ending at a designated time. All students must take quiz within this time.*
3. Two quizzes, each worth 50 points, *starting at a designated time and ending at a designated time. All students must take quiz within this time.*
4. Six Discussions, each worth 50 points.
5. Periodic additional and extra credit assignments.

Please Note: This class is not eligible to be taken as a Pass/No Pass Class. Please see page 315 of the [2024 – 2025 WLAC College Catalog](#) for more information.

Important College Dates for Winter, 2025:

Session Period	January 6, 2025 – February 9, 2025
Application Accepted Beginning	Currently
Finals	Last Day of Class
Campus Closed	January 1 and January 20, 2025
Last Day to Drop Classes with a Refund/No Fee	Find Date in your Student Portal
Last Day to Drop Classes without a W or with a W	In your Student Portal, select Manage Classes then Browse Course Catalog. Find the course, click on it and then go to the Enrollment Information tab to view important dates.
Graduation Petition Accepted	Throughout the year - However to be in the Spring graduation program, file by TBA

Class Policies:

Cell Phones, iPods, etc.

Turn them off and put them away during class or optional Zoom meetings. Talking and texting on cell phones not only distracts you, but it is offensive to other students and the instructor.

Contacting me: E-mail is the best and quickest way to contact me, through the Canvas Inbox or at pentonjk@wlac.edu. **If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact me immediately.** Students are expected to ask questions and obtain help from instructors via email and/or during office hours.

Student Conduct: [**LACCD Board Policy 5500 & AP 4221 – Standards of Student Conduct**](#)

Conduct in all of the Los Angeles Community Colleges must conform to District and college rules and regulations. Violations of such rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action depending on the individual's status as student, faculty, staff or visitor. Violations of such rules and regulations include, but are not limited to, the following:

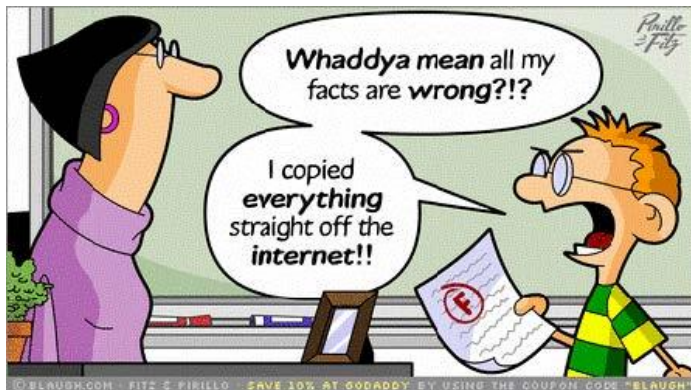
Conduct which poses a threat of harm to the individual and/or to others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following types of conduct:

- a. Unsafe conduct in connection with a Program (e.g. Motion Picture, Dental Hygiene, etc.)
- b. Failure to follow safety directions of District and/or College staff.

- c. Willful disregard of safety rules as adopted by the District and or College.
- d. Negligent behavior which creates an unsafe environment.

Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following: Cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper, or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. Also, if you have not already done so, please now familiarize yourself with Online Etiquette.

IMPORTANT: A NOTE ABOUT AI, ChatGPT, AND PLAGIARISM: Please no plagiarism, no AI plagiarism. This means *no using human generated content and claiming it as your own*. You may quote sources from other people, but you must [cite your sources](#). Also, please note that using an AI generator such as ChatGPT to write an essay for you is also plagiarism, because you are not doing the work to write your own essay. You are not learning, you are not gaining critical thinking skills and this is a form of fraud. If you commit any form of plagiarism, our plagiarism and AI generator detector will catch you and you will be reported to our Administration. As plagiarism is a serious student misconduct issue, you may be expelled from the LACCD Community Colleges if you commit any form of plagiarism. I am here to help you. Please contact me through the Canvas Inbox or at pentonjk@wla.edu for additional support. Please see the [LACCD Board Policy 5500 – Standards of Student Conduct](#) for more information.



Recording Devices

As per Education Code Section 78907, the use by any person, including a student, of any electronic listening or recording device in any classroom without the prior consent of the instructor is prohibited, except as necessary to provide reasonable auxiliary aids and academic adjustments to students with disabilities. Student requests to use a recording device should be made to the instructor in writing. Requests by students with disabilities will be approved on an individual basis, in collaboration with the instructor as appropriate, and must be discussed with a DSPS Counselor. Please see page 325 of the [2024 – 2025 WLAC College Catalog](#) for more information.

Diversity Statement

It is the policy of the LACCD to provide an educational, employment and business environment free from all forms of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, Ethnic Group Identification, ancestry, religion, creed, sex or gender (including sexual harassment), pregnancy,

marital status, medical condition (cancer-related), sexual orientation, age, physical or mental disability, perceived to be in a protected category or associated with those in protected category and veteran status. All programs and activities of the LACCD shall be operated in a manner which is free of discrimination. Employees, students, or other persons acting on behalf of the District who engage in any form of discrimination as defined in this policy or by state or federal law shall be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge, expulsion, or termination of contract.

If you feel that you have been subjected to discrimination and/or harassment, you may report the incident to the District office by [clicking on this LACCD Non-Discrimination Policy](#) link where you can find out about how to file a discrimination and/or harassment complaint at the District website for the Office for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

Campus Resources

Basic Needs

CE 105A | (310) 287-4487

The Basic Needs Program supports students by connecting them to on & off-campus resources and community referrals. Basic Needs encompasses those very necessities to survive: Food and Shelter. They work with you holistically, through a case management model to identify your needs, whether they are food, shelter, health and wellness or a stable income, then they link you to available resources to keep you going so that you can focus and continue school.

Student Physical and Mental Health

The Health Center will continue to address the medical and mental health concerns of students via Telehealth (telephone, email, and zoom) and scheduled in-person appointments.

For a medical or mental health appointments, please call [\(323\) 268-9191](#). Be sure to say you are a WLAC student.

For Virtual Mental Health services only use [Timely Care](#), a virtual health and well-being platform available 24/7 that is free for WLAC students. Students can go to timelycare.com/westlacollege or directly download the TimelyCare app from the app store to register with their WLAC.edu email address. Students can then start visits from any web-enabled device – smartphone, tablet, laptop, or desktop – anywhere in the United States.

Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) per Administrative Policy 4221

Student Services Building SSB 320 | (310) 287-4450

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes its responsibility to provide an equal educational opportunity to students with disabilities. The Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSP&S) department has been established to provide support services for all qualified students with disabilities pursuing an education at West Los Angeles College. DSP&S with approved testing accommodations will take exam according to establish procedure. Please follow the outlined test accommodation procedure as stated by DSP&S for every quiz and exam.

Library

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC)

(310) 287-4408 Circulation, (310) 287-4269 Reference

The WLAC Library provides instruction on how to use the online catalog, periodical and

research databases. In addition to a large collection of books, periodicals and videos the WLAC Library has course textbooks which students may use while in the library. Web access and meeting rooms are available in HLRC. The upper floors provide a beautiful view ideal for study.

[Learning Center, Please see Website for Current Hours and more Information](#)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC)

(310) 287-4404 or (310) 287-4546

The Learning Center can help you with:

- Answering general questions about the college & about noncredit classes and programs
- Resetting your Student Portal (SIS) password
- The GED Test
- Printing
- Computer and Study Room Reservations:

A limited number of Learning Center computers are available for student use. Computers are equipped with Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, After Effects, and Premiere, AVID Media Composer, and some Computer Science software. Students may use the Learning Center computers to complete course assignments and join their Zoom classes.

Additionally, a limited number of Study Room spaces are also available for student use. Students can use the study rooms to join their Zoom classes, work in a quiet space, or meet with their classmates for small study groups. Finally, the Learning Center also has study tables and small study areas available for student use.

- **[Learning Center Tutoring](#)**
West Los Angeles College students are provided free learning support resources and tutoring services through the Learning Center. The Learning Center offers tutoring assistance to all West students in a variety of different subjects, including, but not limited to, writing, math, science, Spanish, and computer science. Tutors are happy to assist students at any stage of their learning and/or assignment process, and tutors are trained provide student-centered tutoring. This means tutors provide a comfortable and encouraging environment for students to learn. Our tutors believe in students' abilities, building their confidence, respecting their experiences, and placing students in an active role in the learning process. Students are encouraged to visit the Learning Center early and often throughout the semester to help build a strong foundation for success in their courses. [Please see link for more information.](#)

[Campus Sheriff's Office and Safety](#)

C3 Building, Parking Lot 5 | (310) 287-4311 & (310) 287-4314

The Sheriff's Office website includes information about drill or emergency evacuations, Title IX resources (if you have been the victim of Sexual Harassment; Sexual Violence and/or Gender-Based Discrimination), and what do to in the event of a lock-down or active shooter situation.

Course Content and Schedule

Module 1: The Invention of the Movies		✓	+	⋮
📖	Earliest Films	✓		⋮
📖	A Short History of Film Textbook	✓		⋮
📖	Read Chapter 1, Watch Movies on Earliest Films Page, and Write an Essay	✓		⋮
	Jan 9 50 pts			
📖	Extra Credit Le Prince	✓		⋮
	Feb 9 0 pts			
📖	Extra Credit: Zoetropes	✓		⋮
	Feb 9 0 pts			
Module 2: The Birth of an American Industry		✓	+	⋮
📖	Evolving Films	✓		⋮
📖	The Cutting Edge: The Magic of Movie Editing Handout	✓		⋮
📖	Walter Murch Rule of Six	✓		⋮
📖	Extra Credit: Find Streets with Names of Famous Hollywood Actors	✓		⋮
	Feb 9 0 pts			
📖	Read Chapter 2, Watch Evolving Films Page, and Write an Essay	✓		⋮
	Jan 13 50 pts			
📖	Sound and the Film Industry	✓		⋮
	Jan 13 50 pts			
📖	Quiz One	✓		⋮
	Jan 13 50 pts			
Module 3: The Hollywood Studio System		✓	+	⋮
📖	Films of the 1930s and 1940s	✓		⋮
📖	Read Chapter 4, Watch Films of the 1930s and 1940s Page, and Write an Essay	✓		⋮
	Jan 17 50 pts			
📖	Citizen Kane Discussion	✓		⋮
	Jan 17 50 pts			
📖	The Great Dictator Discussion	✓		⋮
	Jan 17 50 pts			
📖	Extra Credit: Paddington 2 vs Citizen Kane	✓		⋮
	Feb 9 0 pts			
Module 4: International Cinema through World War II		✓	+	⋮
📖	The History of Editing and World War II Movies	✓		⋮
📖	Read Chapter 5, Watch the History of Editing and World War II Movies Page, and Write an Essay	✓		⋮
	Jan 22 50 pts			
📖	Midterm	✓		⋮
	Jan 22 100 pts			
Module 5: Postwar Challenges to the Movies		✓	+	⋮
📖	Post World War II Films	✓		⋮
📖	Read Chapter 6, Watch the Movies on the Post World War II Films Page, and Write an Essay	✓		⋮
	Jan 27 50 pts			
📖	Discuss Movies in Module 5	✓		⋮
	Jan 27 50 pts			

⋮	▼ Module 6: The End of the Twentieth Century	✓ ▼	+	⋮
⋮	 Films at the end of the Twentieth Century	✓		⋮
⋮	 Films at the end of the Twentieth Century Discussion Jan 31 50 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	 Read Chapter 8, Watch the Films at the end of the Twentieth Century Page, and Write an Essay Jan 31 50 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	▼ Module 7: Motion Pictures in the New Millennium	✓ ▼	+	⋮
⋮	 Films of the New Millennium	✓		⋮
⋮	 Motion Pictures in the New Millennium Discussion Feb 5 50 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	 Read Chapter 10, the Films of the New Millennium Page, Filmsite Article 2000s, and Write an Essay Feb 5 50 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	 Quiz Two Feb 5 50 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	▼ Module 8: Final Observations and Summary	✓ ▼	+	⋮
⋮	 Current Films	✓		⋮
⋮	 Extra Credit, Borat Subsequent Moviefilm Feb 9 0 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	 Extra Credit, Everything Everywhere and all at Once Feb 9 0 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	 Current Films Discussion Feb 9 50 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	 Read Filmsite Articles 2010s, 2020s, Read Hollywood Reporter Article, Watch Current Films Page, and Write an Essay Feb 9 50 pts	✓		⋮
⋮	 Cinema 3 Final Exam Feb 9 100 pts	✓		⋮

****Disclaimer:** Syllabus/schedule subject to change

Student Acknowledgment
(Please return this sheet to the instructor)

"I _____, have completely read this **Film Production 291B** syllabus and understand and agree to the course requirements."

Date: _____ Student Signature: _____

Please indicate below, any special needs or circumstances that may have some impact on your work in this class, and for which you may require special accommodations, including but not limited to physical or mental disabilities, inability to arrive in class on time or need to leave class early, observance of religious holidays, etc.

Special needs or circumstances:
