

## COM/THE/ENG 289

### Film Criticism

Term V – Summer 2022

Time: Asynchronous

Room: ONLINE



**C O K E R**  
UNIVERSITY

**Instructor:** Jesse Graham Galas, Assistant Professor of Theatre  
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Office Hours: By appointment through Google Meet

#### A. Course Description/Objectives/Learning Outcomes

##### Course Description:

A historical and critical perspective of film production from North America, Europe and Asia through which modern film production can be interpreted. This course is designed for the student who wants to gain a fundamental understanding and appreciation for various film genres and styles, basic production techniques and terminology, historical origins and influences, and cultural impacts.

##### Course Goal:

Students, through course study, will be able to discuss films based on their historical, cultural, textual or technical merit. Through written practice, discussions, journals and quizzes of these analytical skills in relation to film, the student should improve in their analysis of recorded media.

##### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

1. To examine film as an institution, its history, genres, and work as both a cultural form and an industry.
2. To identify, analyze and discuss the major technical elements of film, to include mise en scene, cinematography, editing and sound.
3. To identify, analyze and discuss the major cultural elements of film, to include representations of race, class and gender
4. Develop vocabulary used to describe specific film styles, techniques and roles within the industry.

#### B. Required Text

1. There is NO required textbook for this class; however, you will be required to Rent films to watch. The amount will vary based on your access to streaming services, but these films are usually no more than \$3.99. Plan on spending about

\$35 total on Course materials. You might find some films are already included on Hulu or Amazon Prime, for example.

**Other Materials:**

1. Youtube
2. Netflix
3. Amazon Prime

**Course Schedule**

- **Week 1: Film History**
- **Week 2: Directors**
- **Week 3: Cinematography/Mise En Scene**
- **Week 4: The Greatest Movie Ever Made?**
- **Week 5: Genre**
- **Week 6: Independent Films/Film Festivals**
- **Week 7: Documentaries**
- **Week 8: Global Perspective/Foreign Films**

**Grading Methods**

FOR THIS CLASS, your only concern is POINT accumulation, NOT PERCENTAGES. There are no weighted totals, and each point you earn gets you closer to an 'A'. When looking at Blackboard on your phone – ONLY LOOK AT THE POINTS. Do the math, which only involves moving the decimal point to determine your grade. For example: if you have 785 points you have a 78.5 or a C in the class.

There will be opportunities for Extra Credit in this class. It does not count against you if you don't take advantage of it; it can only help you. Again, every point gets you closer to an 'A'.

A = 900 – 1000; B = 899 – 800; C = 799 – 700; D = 699 – 600; F = 599 and below

<b>Grade Item</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
Journals (8 @ 30 pts) 1 pg per week on posted topic (See Blackboard)	240 points
Discussions (8 @ 20 pts) Initial Post & Reply on posted topic (See Blackboard)	160 points
Quizzes (7 @ 50 pts) Quizzes will be multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, T/F, etc.	350 points
Midterm Favorite Film – Critical Analysis (3-5 pages)	125 points
Final Exam Final Written Exam – Multiple choice, short answer, etc.	125 points

**SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

- Assignments will be listed with detailed instructions in the THE 289 Blackboard page. Each Week is broken into modules, and it is your responsibility to stay on top of each week's assignments.
- As this class is entirely online, it is up to you to stay on top of your assignments. I will send out reminders occasionally, but ultimately your success is up to you.

**Late work Policy**

- **Assignments must be turned in on time for full credit. Late work WILL be accepted at a penalty of 5 points deducted per day.**

**STUDENT EXPECTATION STATEMENT**

- Students are expected to **log into Blackboard EVERY DAY** – you should keep a daily check on assignments, due dates, discussions, and correspondence.

**In order to get the most out of this course, students must take a personal interest in their own future. Lackluster effort will affect not only your success in this course, but also likely your success beyond Coker University.**

**Attendance Policy**

Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, your participation through all assignments is essential.

**Make-Up Work Policy**

Missing any part of this schedule may prevent completion of the course. If you foresee difficulty of any type (e.g., an illness, employment change, etc.) which may prevent completion of this course, notify the instructor as soon as possible. Failure to do so will result in failure for an assignment and/or failure of the course. If I have not heard from you by the deadline dates for assignments, exams, or forums, no make-up work will be allowed (unless extraordinary circumstances exist, such as hospitalization). Requests for extensions must be made in advance and accompanied by appropriate written documentation.

**“Computer problems” and “No Internet” are not acceptable excuses.**

**Class Procedure and Course Requirements**

1. A note about e-mail & Blackboard communication: As a student, any communication sent to an instructor is professional correspondence and should be treated as such. Communication containing improper punctuation, capitalization and/or fragmented sentence structure may not be accepted or given a response. This includes your

assignments, papers, discussion board posts and emails. Corresponding professionally now will prepare you for your career beyond Coker University.

2. Viewing Assignments - These viewings will be assigned to you during the week noted and should be completed on a week by week basis. Viewing assignments will prepare you for discussions and other assignments.
3. Submission of Work - Submission of all written work is to be done electronically through Blackboard. Microsoft Word is the preferred program (doc, docx, pdf and rtf files are acceptable). If you do not have access to MS Word, direct your browser to openoffice.org and download a free program that is similar. **No .pages will be accepted.**

## **College, Department, and/or Theater Program Policies Disability**

**Assistance:** Reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with documented physical, sensory, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require assistance to fully participate in this class. If a student has a disability that will likely need some accommodation by the instructor, the student should contact Robin Richardson in the Learning Support Services Office (ext. 8021, rrichardson@coker.edu) to provide the necessary documentation. No accommodations can be made without documentation from LSS. The student is solely responsible for contacting Robin Richardson.

## **Student Success Center**

The Student Success Center works collaboratively with faculty and staff to ensure students are progressing towards personal, academic, and career goals. Within the Student Success Center, Student Success Coaches assist assigned students with getting connected to campus resources, developing career goals, and troubleshooting any possible challenges that may arise during their Coker experience. The Student Success Center strives to develop students' sense of self by helping them evaluate their strengths, interests, values, and goals early on in their academic career and channel those criteria into successful networks, internships, and mentorships. Additionally, the Student Success Center is responsible for the new student orientations, the first-year experience, and internships. The Student Success Center is located on the 1st floor of the Library and Information Technology Center.

## **Health Care, Counseling Services, Campus Safety**

**Health & Medical Clinic Services:** [843-383-8141](tel:843-383-8141) | [healthservices@coker.edu](mailto:healthservices@coker.edu)

**Campus Safety:** Security can be contacted 24/7 at 843-383-8140 (*on-campus extension: 8140*)

**Counseling Services:** Counseling services will be provided through the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) TelePsych program, where students will have access to a psychiatrist. All appointments will take place in Coker's [Center for Health and Wellness](#).

## **Coker University Code of Conduct**

Coker University is a community dedicated to scholarship. Those who join the Coker University community commit to a lifelong journey of intellectual and personal growth. By becoming citizens of this community, students are obligated to honor the principles that define Coker University. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to:

- Be an active and honorable scholar, inside and outside of the classroom
- Contribute positively to the academic and social life of the community at large
- Respect the rights, property, and dignity of others
- Be accountable for his/ her own actions. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is failure of the class. Plagiarism and/or cheating will be considered a breach of conduct and will be reported to the College Provost.

## **Inclusivity Policy**

In keeping with a non-discrimination policy, we aim to ensure that this classroom is a safe and respectful space where people are welcomed regardless of their identity, appearance, or presentation. We will endeavor to not assume anyone's gender, sexual, racial, religious, or other identities without voluntary input nor to impose such identities on them without their consent. Since language use within the classroom may involve the used gendered pronouns and names, I will be asking students to optionally share their preferred pronouns and names at the semester's start. I will make appropriate changes to my records if students use a different name than is listed in the class roster. Expressions of hate and bigotry directed at particular individuals or their identities are counter-productive to respectful exchange and learning, and thus will be curtailed; however, note that the critical analysis of social hierarchies and systems [e.g. patriarchy, sexism, race, class, etc] is distinct from the unfair targeting of individuals from privileged groups, and is fully protected under academic freedom.

Government Institutions prohibit discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, service in the U.S. military, sexual orientation, gender identity, associational preference, or any other classification that deprives the person of consideration as an individual.

## **Academic Expectations**

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Intellectual honesty and integrity are the cornerstones of Coker University's educational mission. Student academic work is expected to represent unquestionably the student's own thoughts and words. Students must thoroughly and appropriately acknowledge sources for words or ideas that have been generated by others. It is each student's responsibility to be familiar with appropriate citation techniques and to acknowledge the intellectual and creative contributions of others in all academic work done at the University.

Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, or failing to appropriately cite sources. Any form of academic dishonesty is wholly incompatible with the Coker University Student

Covenant, the Mission of the University, and generally understood standards of ethical academic behavior. Academic dishonesty is among the most serious of violations that might be committed at the University; for that reason, penalties for academic dishonesty may include: ● penalties assessed to the assignment, or ● penalties assessed to the course grade, or ● suspension or expulsion from the University.

In cases of academic dishonesty, the instructor may elect to take direct action or refer the matter to the Office of the Provost to arrange review by an academic hearing panel composed of members serving on the Student Development Committee of the Faculty Senate. Should an instructor choose to take direct action, he/she should inform both the student and the Office of the Provost. The Office of the Provost maintains a record of all reported academic dishonesty cases and multiple offenses may result in additional penalties. A student who believes a penalty has been unduly or unfairly assessed may appeal by way of the grade appeal process articulated in this section.

**Cheating:** A student is guilty of cheating when he/she wrongfully gives, takes, or receives unauthorized assistance or information in the preparation of academic work to be submitted for course credit, or in fulfillment of a University requirement, including re-purposing material from another assignment or course without providing proper attribution by citing the original content.

**Plagiarism:** A student is guilty of plagiarism when he/she submits work purporting to be his/her own, but which in fact, borrows ideas, organization, wording, or anything else from other sources — a published article, a chapter of a book, a friend's paper, etc. — without appropriate source acknowledgement. Plagiarism, as a form of cheating, also includes employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the academic work the student submits as his/her own. Students may generally discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but the actual work must be done by the student alone. When an assignment involves research with outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what they are, and where and how he/she has employed them.

**Source Acknowledgement:** All members of the Coker University community are expected to adhere to the strictest standards regarding acknowledgement of the use of another person's words, ideas, opinions or theories. Individual instructors and disciplines may employ different methods of citation and acceptable sources (e.g., Sources taken from the Internet may not be acceptable in some classes). It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the guidelines for citation in their various courses. ● Direct Quotation. All verbatim quotations, regardless of length, must be appropriately footnoted or otherwise attributed to the original source. Coker University Student Handbook Page 79 of 97 ● Paraphrase. To avoid using extremely long quotations, paraphrasing is recommended. Any paraphrased ideas or phrases must be appropriately footnoted or otherwise cited. ● General Acknowledgement. If a piece of academic work has been generally or specifically influenced by the words or ideas of another person, that source must be cited, even if quotation or paraphrasing of text is not employed. ● Collaboration. Only when permitted by the instructor are students allowed to collaborate with others in their work. If

collaboration is permitted, the use of another student's ideas or work must be properly cited.

## **Title IX and Reporting of Discrimination and Sexual Harassment**

As a recipient of Federal Funds, Coker University is required to comply with Title IX legislation, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities, admission, and employment. Coker's Commitment to Equality Equal access to educational experiences is an important part of the Coker experience. If you feel you have been discriminated against based on your sex, gender, gender identity/expression, or sexual orientation, or if you have experienced sexual harassment, misconduct, or violence, we encourage you to report this to a member of the Coker Community.

### **What is Sexual Harassment?**

Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including unwelcome sexual advances and requests for sexual favors. Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment and includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, rape, sexual battery, sexual coercion, and sexual exploitation.

### **Who Can I Talk to?**

While faculty and staff are happy to listen to your concerns, please be mindful of how much you wish to disclose since all Coker faculty and staff members are 'mandatory reporters.' This means that if they are made aware of potential discrimination, harassment, misconduct, or violence that has occurred involving any Coker student, staff, or faculty member, they are required by law to report it to Coker's Title IX Officer. This includes incidents that occur on campus or at an off-campus Coker-sponsored event or activity in the recent present or in the past. Of course, you may also contact Coker University's Title IX Coordinator (843-383-8007) directly. At any time that you fear for your immediate safety, contact Campus Safety (843-383-8140) or dial 911.

### **Confidential Reporting**

If you wish to talk with someone who is better able to keep your information confidential, please visit or call Coker's Counseling Services (843-383-8040) or Coker's Student Health Services (843-383-8141). Additional information is located under the Title IX section on the Coker website: <https://www.coker.edu/about-coker/offices-services/campussafety/title-ix/>.

### **Notes from the Professor**

I have found that the best learning environment is an informal setting where ideas can be exchanged freely without fear of harassment or ridicule. I will make every effort to treat you each as intelligent, responsible adults who have made a commitment to broadening your horizons. I value your commitment to expanding your intelligence and pushing your academic performance, and I welcome any experience or perspective you bring to the classroom and our online discussions. Most of all, however, I value your kindness, compassion, and consideration for the needs of others. I hope you will extend the same values toward your fellow classmates and your instructor.

## 10 Movie Theater Etiquette Tips

1. Arrive before the movie starts; entering during previews is totally acceptable, but finding your seat after the movie has begun is disruptive for other patrons.
2. Do not bring children who are too young or immature to view an adult movie, or who cannot sit still for the duration of the film.
3. Stay seated. Go to the restroom before the movie begins so that you will not have to go during the movie. This is especially important if bringing children. If you have a bladder problem and know that you will be taking a restroom break during the movie, then choose an aisle seat near the exit. If your seat is not on the aisle, and you must use the restroom, then leave. But, when you come back, stand at the side and return to your seat during a non-captivating scene in the movie.
4. Turn off cell phones or put them on silent. Do this during the previews so that your phone is not still lit up as the lights go down. If you forgot to turn off your cell phone, and it rings, immediately turn it off. Do not answer the call.
5. Eat and drink quietly, especially during the silent moments in the film.
6. Do not talk, whisper, sing, or hum during the movie unless the movie is interactive and welcomes audience participation, i.e. "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". No one paid to hear your commentary, no matter how brilliant – save it for your blog. Also, no one paid to hear you sing along...if you need to sing, go karaoke.
7. If there are disruptive patrons, you can quietly change seats, and/or let the manager or usher know, and they can handle the situation.
8. Keep feet on the floor and not on the seat in front of you. Never push or kick the chair in front of you.
9. Take your trash and dispose in appropriate containers, don't leave it on the floor. Those kids are not getting paid enough to pick up all your trash.
10. Movies, by definition, are MOVING PICTURES. A movie is meant to be watched, not just listened to. If you are texting or talking, you are missing 90% of the film that you paid good money to see.