

Course Number & Name: LIS 424 - The Film in Communication

- **Former description:** Film as a major medium for information, communication, education, social research, and artistic expression. Course topics include: evolution of film form; acquiring the basic vocabulary for film criticism and reviewing; building the film collection; the genres of film, including fiction, documentary, propaganda, personal vision, short features, and animation. Additional topics covered are the film archivist as historian; responsibilities of the film archivist and film librarian; criteria for awards at professional conferences; survey of film literatures; and methods of selection and utilization for a variety of institutional contexts. Emphasis on viewing films for critical analysis.
- **Description:** Introduction to the major events in film history and film genres. Studies of basic cinematic terminology; methods of film analysis. Exercises in films' descriptions, especially in writing summary for catalogues. Discussions. Readings. Working on individual projects.
- **Prerequisites:** LIS 415
- **Audience (level, environment/setting):** Beginning; all settings
- **Student Learning Outcomes** [by number]: 1, 4, 7
- **Topics/List of Lectures:**
 - The early films. D. W. Griffith's innovations
 - German Expressionism vs. Russian Socialist Realism
 - Mise-en-scene, chiaroscuro, subjective camera, montage
 - The world of comedy
 - Introduction of sound
 - Film as propaganda and film as record. Cinema Verite.
 - Poetic realism, Surrealism, Hollywood. Studio system.
 - Film Noir, the Italian Neorealism, the French New Wave, Japanese films
 - Cinema vs. Television
 - The special subject films: films by women and films about women
 - American films of the 1970s-1990s
 - East European films
 - The Third World cinema
 - Dogma 95. New perspective in contemporary cinema
- **Suggested Textbooks/Readings**

Required:

 - Cook, David (1996). *A History of Narrative Film*. W.W. Norton
 - Holland, Agnieszke (1996). *Olivier, Olivier*. Heinemann.

- Karetnikova, Inga (1990). *How Scripts Are Made*. Southern Illinois U. Press.

Recommended:

- Barsam, Richard (1973). *Nonfiction Film, A Critical History*. E.P. Dutton
- Gledhill, Christine & Williams, Linda, Eds. (2000). *Reviewing Film Studies*. Oxford U. Press
- Phillips, William (1999). *Film: An Introduction*. St. Martin's

- **Course History:**

January 2005: Discussed at curriculum retreat.

- **Document prepared by:** Inga Karetnikova, 3/05