

**FILM 4985 (Film Minor Capstone):
Spring 2014**

Instructor: Dr. Anna Froula
Office hours: T 11-4
& by appointment

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Class Meeting Time: MW 2:00-3:15

Jan. 13	M	Course introduction
Jan. 15	W	Course introduction
Jan. 20	M	State Holiday, no class // Tuesday screening in Bate 1011
Jan. 22	W	"Four Kinds of Terrorism"; <i>Children of Men</i> (Cuarón, 2006)
Jan. 27	M	Moses, et al., " <i>District 9: A Roundtable</i> "
Jan. 29	W	<i>District 9</i> (Blomkamp, 2009)
Feb. 3	M	Sontag, "Regarding the Torture of Others" and Hudson, "Gitmo 12 Years Later"
Feb. 5	W	<i>S.O.P.</i> (Errol Morris, 2008)
Feb. 10	M	Hedges and Sacco, "Days of Devastation"
Feb. 12	W	<i>Even the Rain</i> (Icíar Bollaín, 2010)
Feb. 17	M	Froula, "Prolepsis and the 'War on Terror': Zombie Pathology and the Culture of Fear in <i>28 Days Later...</i> " and <i>28 Days Later...</i> (Boyle, 2002)
Feb. 19	W	Popcorn assignment due.
Feb. 24	M	Sontag, "The Imagination of Disaster" and Levine and Taylor, "The Upside of Down: Disaster and the Imagination 50 Years On"
Feb. 26	W	<i>This is the End</i> (Rogen and Goldberg, 2013)
Mar. 3	M	Froula, "9/11? What's That?: Trauma, Temporality, and <i>Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles</i> "
Mar. 5	W	<i>Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles</i> , "Pilot" Midterm exam due by Friday.
Mar. 17	M	No class: finalize group projects
Mar. 19	W	No class: finalize group projects
Mar. 24	M	Giroux, "Radical Democracy Against Cultures of Violence" and Klein, "Blank Is Beautiful: Three Decades of Erasing and Remaking the World"
Mar. 26	W	<i>The Hunger Games</i> (Gary Ross, 2012)/ <i>Catching Fire</i> (Francis Lauwrence, 2013) bonanza this week (you are only responsible for one film, but I'll have pizza!
Mar. 31	M	group projects
Apr. 2	W	group projects
Apr. 7	M	<i>Titus</i> Note: You need to watch the film before Monday! No reading—read a summary/sparknotes before you view the film.
Apr. 9	W	<i>Titus</i> (Taymor, 1999)

Apr. 14	M	group projects
Apr. 16	W	group projects
Apr. 21	M	group projects
Apr. 23	W	group projects
Apr. 28	M	group projects
May 5	M	Final exam due by 4:30

Course Description

Movies and popular culture can provide creative, entertaining, and illuminating insights into national consciousness, traumas, and anxieties. This film studies minor capstone class will take on some of the hard questions facing us in the age of economic uncertainty and global instability. We will use various genres and approaches to explore the important ways that cinema can be in dialogue with contemporary issues of war and social unrest.

Course objectives. Students will:

- make connections among classes taken for the film minor.
- develop research skills into contemporary social issues and cinematic representation
- analyze films as art, industry, argument, representation, etc.
- lead class discussion during the appointed week
- develop insights into the ways in which American life, culture, and politics have global ramifications.

Required Text: Throughout the semester, I will also provide required readings over email and blackboard in .pdf format. You may download a free .pdf reader via adobe.com.

Film Screenings: The official 4985 screening time is Monday, 6:30 pm in Bate 1011. You are responsible for screening the films/TV shows before the designated class period, so plan ahead. Films will be available in Joyner library for in-library check-out at the circulation desk (as well as occasionally streaming on Netflix and/or Amazon.com). You'll need to bring your own headphones for library viewing. Be sure to take substantive notes in preparation for class discussion (see below) and mark the time of at least two scenes per film that you would like to analyze.

Assignment Formatting and Submission Guidelines

Please contact me with questions as they arise. It is your responsibility to maintain due dates and correct submission practice. All assignments must meet the following formatting requirements and follow the MLA style sheet. Violations will result in significant point deductions.

Titles, Margins, Spacing, Pagination: The following information **only** should be single-spaced in the top left hand of the first page: name, date, course number and section, instructor's last name. Begin double-spacing with the title (one space below the instructor's last name) and continue throughout the document. **Do not add extra spaces between paragraphs or around the title.** Use 1-inch margins all around. Your last name

and the page number should appear in the top right hand corner of all pages except the first page.

Electronic files: When you turn in an assignment through email, use the following format to name your file: [Your last name][assignment name]4985.doc, .docx, or .rtf. No .wps files will be accepted!

Late Work Penalties: The standard penalty for late work (beyond your two extensions) is one full letter grade for each day it is late, 1/4 letter if you submit it later than the day it was due but before the next scheduled class meeting. (Documented, excused or university absences, of course, negate such penalties.) **Be sure to bring your notebooks to each class!**

Course Policies

You are responsible for the grade you earn in this class. If you would like to discuss your progress in this course, please come talk to me.

Class meetings will consist of a combination of lecture and discussion of the week's texts. Lectures will represent a wide range of supplemental materials and class readings. Because much of the class is interactive, it is essential that you come to class having carefully read the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them. I seek to provide a classroom in which all individuals are comfortable contributing their thoughts, questions, viewpoints, and ideas. To that end, it is important to respect the diverse backgrounds and experiences of other classmates. **All beepers and cell phones must be turned off in class and during film screenings and stowed in your bag.**

Email: Include the course number (FILM 4985) in the subject line of all emails and treat the communication professionally. This will ensure that your email arrives in the proper folder, which will also help it receive a timely response.

Attendance: You are required to show up to class on time and stay through the duration of the class. Leaving in the middle of a class is not permitted unless it is an emergency that you clear with me before you exit, so take care of bathroom breaks, snack purchases, phone calls, and texting before arriving to class. After 4 absences, your final grade will be significantly lowered up to a letter grade.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education and East Carolina University; therefore, I will not tolerate acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize or falsify. Should I determine that an academic integrity violation has taken place, I reserve the right either to assign a grade penalty or to refer the case to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for an Academic Integrity Board hearing. I will assign a grade penalty up to an F for the assignment or course. Should it come to my attention that you have had a prior academic integrity violation, or if there are other aggravating circumstances, I will refer the case directly to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Should the Academic Integrity Board determine that you committed an academic integrity violation, you may be assigned a grade penalty and/or any other sanction allowed in the student Code of Conduct, up to and including suspension from the

University. The Student Handbook is online at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/policyhub/academic_integrity.cfm.

R Rating: Some of the films we will watch are rated R for sexual and violent content. If you foresee a problem with this, come talk to us within the first week of classes.

Accommodations

(ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to Disability Support Services, located in Slay 138, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252-737-1016.

Emergency Weather

In the event of a weather emergency, information can be accessed through the following sources: ECU emergency notices www.ecu.edu/alert <<http://www.ecu.edu/alert>> or the ECU emergency information hotline at 252-328-0062. In the event that face-to-face classes are suspended due to a pandemic or other catastrophe (**how dystopian!!!**) we will strive to continue instruction to those that are able to participate. If and when face-to-face classes are suspended, you will receive an email from me that details how we will communicate, where you can locate course information and what you can expect during this time period. I realize that some of you may be affected by the event and not able to participate, however we will continue to provide instruction to those that are able to continue.

Interdisciplinary Film Studies Minor: Interested in a minor in film studies? ECU now offers a minor in film studies. For more information, contact Dr. Amanda Klein the coordinator of film studies at KleinA@ecu.edu and see our webpage at <http://www.ecu.edu/english/filmstudies/>.

Grades

GPA Hours at ECU hours	“Old” Retention Requirements	New Retention Requirements
1-29 semester hours	1.6 GPA	1.8
30-59 semester hours	1.8 GPA	1.9
60-74 semester hours	1.9 GPA	2.0
75 or more semester hours	2.0 GPA	2.0

Letter Grade	Numerical Value	Letter Grade	Numerical Value
A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.7	C-	1.7
B+	3.3	D+	1.3

B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.7	D-	0.7
C+	2.3	F	0

Writing-Intensive Credit

Writing Intensive (WI)

FILM 4985 is a writing intensive course in the Writing Across the Curriculum Program at East Carolina University. In using WI Model 4 this course contributes to the twelve-hour WI requirement for students at ECU. Additional information is available at the following site: <http://www.ecu.edu/writing/wac/>.

Course Projects and Materials

You will need to designate one notebook for the sole purpose of this class. Turning in handfuls of paper ripped from other notebooks will not suffice. The size should be dependent on the size of your handwriting. You'll also need a few different colors of markers/pens and a glue stick.

Logbook (20% final grade)¹

As a student in a writing class, you may have been required to keep a "journal" before; teachers often ask students to respond to specific prompts and use the journals as "free" spaces to write and think. Our logbook, however, is more than that. It is like a journal + scrapbook + critical thinking and reflection + class and screening notes. In FILM 4985, you're being asked to keep a logbook to process the dense theory and criticism we will read and to see how it operates in class and out in the world. I will take these up periodically to evaluate your work.

Preparing Your Logbooks: As you begin to make use of your logbooks, remember to do the following:

- Leave the first two – three pages of your book blank. You will use those to make a Table of Contents (TOC).
- Number all the pages of your logbook so that you and I can find things easily, can reference those numbers later in your analytical essay, and so that you can fill in the numbers on your TOC.
- On page 4, write and sign the following statement: "I have read the entire syllabus and understand and accept its terms"
- *Always* have your logbook in class; a class with no logbook is like a class absence!
- Highlighters! Always have a couple highlighters handy in class.

Common Core Requirements. Always be writing: All students in FILM 4985 are expected to have the following core components in their logbooks:

¹ Adapted from Dr. Will Banks' syllabus for ENGL 4550/6515

- *Screening Notes* from watching the films and the times of the scenes you want to discuss
- *Scenes and Quotes*: Describe at least 2-3 scenes from the films we watch for class discussion and at least 5-10 pertinent quotes from the readings (these can be phrases). Choose scenes and quotations that you find interesting, perhaps those that leap out at you as particularly meaningful or insightful. If all else fails, choose scenes that offer you insights into the main characters, their motivations, desires, interests, understandings of the world, etc.
- *Observations and Artifacts* of specific texts you encounter outside of class that relate to our class concepts. This can be wide-ranging.
- *Class-Based Writing & Responses*: These include how you will map out your way to the film via the reading assignments (key arguments in the text that suggest what to look for in the films) and in-class reflections on cinematic and critical texts that focus on a particular issue/theme. Your reflections should synthesize terms defined in the syllabus and in the book. Highlighted passages in the readings will not suffice; rather restate concepts in your own words and connect ideas and examples to other texts that you know) and concepts and out-of-class reflections on film clips that are germane to your final paper but perhaps not viewed in class. NB: your final essay will be *much* easier to put together if you cite page numbers as you read (doing so is the hallmark of a daybook that earns an A).

Assessment: Students who successfully read all the texts and complete the common core activities in their daybooks will be guaranteed at least C on their daybooks. Students can earn Bs or As on their logbooks by demonstrating facility in class note-taking and synthesis in class readings: recording the basic tenets of the reading's argument (pre-writing for your blog posts) and vocabulary along with its main claims. Students can also earn Bs and As by including artifacts (newspaper/magazine clippings, screen grabs from web pages, promotional brochures and other materials that relate to class also help here.

4 additional entries with pictures/artifacts/screenshots = B

8 additional entries with pictures/artifacts/screenshots = A

I will also provide various prompts for reflection/analysis in your logbooks

Class Participation (10% final grade)

Any class is only as good as the students are willing to make it via participation. Arrive to all class meetings on time and prepared by having read and taking notes on readings, films, and clips. Be prepared to introduce scenes you'd like to discuss. In class meetings, ask questions, share observations, work through the more difficult concepts, agree and disagree with others' points, share from your logbook, etc.

Twitter Pre-Writing (10% final grade):

You need to set up a Twitter account to complete this part of the class. Each week you will need to tweet about the readings and viewings at least **4 times** by **10 a.m.** before each class meeting. Tweets that count for credit must be concepts from your reading assignments and observations about the media texts (only one tweet per class can be a direct quote). You are also welcome to use twitter to pose questions and observations or points that come to mind after class and encouraged to post links to media clips,

screenshots, and .gifs. Twitter provides us with short, succinct points, so tweets do not substitute for the deeper analysis we'll do in class. Rather, it allows us to converse in an ongoing conversation and raise questions before and after class as well as prompt discussion points in our class meetings. If you struggle with what to write, consider them the way to share the most interesting/puzzling/troubling/ illustrative points that strike you from your readings and your screening notes. Our class hashtag (#) is #f4985. Be sure to always put this hashtag in your tweet so that it will show up in the search function (you can save a search so that all the tweets with the same hashtag; also, doing this will ensure that you receive credit for your tweets, even when you use the @ function to reply to someone. Twitter participation will be assessed on "thick" vs. "thin" tweets. (Read this short piece to see the difference: <http://silverinsf.blogspot.com/2009/02/difference-between-thin-and-thick.html>)

Group presentation (10% final grade)

During the week assigned you will decide which film we watch (and any corresponding documentary clips), which academic and popular articles we will read, which issue we will focus on, and lead discussion on both class days. During the week after spring break, you will have class time to finalize your presentation.

Popcorn assignment (5% final grade): You will annotate a film clip, using ideas from that week's reading, and post it to youtube (you can set privacy functions so that only people who have access to the link will see it). You can read more about how this works here: <http://blog.jenniferproctor.com/popcorn-maker-for-film-studies/>

Midterm/Final (15% each final grade):

These will be essay-based, take-home exams due on the designated dates.

Final paper (15% final grade)

I will provide more information on this 8-10 page paper throughout the semester.