## I. ASCRC General Education Form

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>V. Literary and Artistic Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dept/Program</td>
<td>English/Film Studies</td>
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<td>ENFM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course #</td>
<td>ENFM 180L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Intro to Film</td>
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<td>Prerequisite</td>
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<td>Credits</td>
<td>3</td>
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## II. Endorsement/Approvals

Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office.

| Instructor          | Sean O’Brien                   |
| Phone / Email       | 243-5791                       |
|                     | sean.o’brien@mso.umt.edu       |
| Program Chair       | Casey Charles                  |
| Dean                | Jon Tompkins                   |

## III. Description and purpose of the course:

General Education courses must be introductory and foundational. They must emphasize breadth, context, and connectedness; and relate course content to students’ future lives: See Preamble:

[http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm)

This course introduces students to the basic concepts and categories used in film analysis, and teaches them to assess the aesthetic and political dimensions of film. Students are exposed to a wide variety of films (classic and contemporary, American and international) and are given skills to help ensure that they become sophisticated viewers of the visual media.

## IV. Criteria:

Briefly explain how this course meets the criteria for the group. See:

[http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm)

**Courses cover a number of works in one or more of the various forms of artistic representation;**

The students in the course are required to view a wide range of films (classic, contemporary, foreign and American).

**they also establish a framework and context for analysis of the structure and significance of these works.**

They are taught how to break down scenes and shots into their elemental components and to analyze the components and their combinations from both an aesthetic and political perspective.

**In addition, these courses provide mechanisms for students 1) to receive instruction on the methods of analysis and criticism, 2) to develop arguments about the works from differing critical perspectives.**

They are exposed to competing views regarding film aesthetics and the politics of representation, and are required to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the central debates between various traditions.

## V. Student Learning Goals:

Briefly explain how this course will meet the applicable learning goals. See:

[http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm)
Upon completion of this perspective, students will be able to:

| 1. analyze works of art with respect to structure and significance within literary and artistic traditions, including emergent movements and forms; and |
| Students are required to write essays on both the aesthetic and political dimensions of films, and the relationship between the two. This requires that they analyze the significance of the conventions used and the content presented. |

| 2. develop coherent arguments that critique these works from a variety of approaches, such as historical, aesthetic, cultural, psychological, political, and philosophical. |
| Students are also required to critically assess certain debates that have arisen among competing schools of film theory. |

**VII. Syllabus:** Paste syllabus below or attach and send digital copy with form. The syllabus should clearly describe how the above criteria are satisfied. For assistance on syllabus preparation see: [http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html](http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html)

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**Introduction to Film**  
**ENLT/LS 180**

**Professor Sean O'Brien**

**Office hours:** Tu, W 11-12:30 in LA 145 and by appointment

**Texts:** *Understanding Movies* and readings on e-reserve

**Requirements:** weekly quizzes, short essays, in-class final comprehensive exam

This course is designed to introduce you to both a wide range of films and various perspectives from which to assess the visual media. We will compare certain central approaches to film production, and learn how to analyze the ethical, political and aesthetic dimensions of film, as well as their relationship to one another.

**Schedule:**

**I. Conventions and Aesthetics**

8/25  Introduction

8/27  Realism/Formalism and basic terminology  
Readings: UM, pgs. 1-35; 498-506

9/3  *Sling Blade*

9/8  Formalism/Mis-en-scene- *Citizen Kane*  
Readings: UM pgs. 506-511; UM ch. 2  
Quiz on *Sling Blade*
9/10  *Pulp Fiction*

9/15 Quiz and discussion on *Pulp Fiction*

9/17 Editing: pgs. 148-186,  *Birth of a Nation* and *Battleship Potemkin*

9/22 *Run Lola Run*

**II. Ethics in Film**

9/24 Moral Theory
   Readings: Utilitarian and Deontology readings on e-reserve
   Quiz on *Run Lola Run*

9/29 *The Music Box*

10/1 Moral Theory: Kant Alive and Well in Hollywood
   Readings: Kant readings on e-reserve
   Quiz on *The Music Box*

10/6 *Capote*

10/8 Quiz and Discussion on *Capote*

**III. Politics of Film**

10/13 Politics of Representation
   Baudrillard and Lanzman readings on e-reserve

10/15 First half of Schindler’s List

10/20 *Shoah*

10/22 Guest Speaker on Politics of Representation

10/27 2<sup>nd</sup> half of Schindler’s list
   Politics of Representation essay assigned: - due 10/29

10/29 Review and discussion of Politics of Representation

**III. The Auteur Theory**

11/3 The Auteur Theory
   Readings: pgs. 512-518

11/5 *Amoros Peros*
11/10  Veterans Day

11/12  *Babel*

11/17  Quiz and Discussion on *Amoros Peros* and *Babel*

**IV. Film and Affirmation**

11/19  Buddhist affirmation

11/24  *American Beauty*

11/26  Thanksgiving

12/1   Summary and Review

12/3   Summary and Review

*There will be a comprehensive final exam 8:00-10:00 a.m. on Tues 12/9*
*Please note: As an instructor of a general education course, you will be expected to provide sample assessment items and corresponding responses to the Assessment Advisory Committee.