SO 300 D // Sociology through Film
Spring 2016 // Dr. E. Camara

Office: 121 B Butcher Center
Office Hours: Mon thru Fri – 3-5 pm
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Text - No formal textbook will be required. The course will be based on readings about the films shown, which will either be provided in the class as handouts, or placed online.

Course Objectives – This is a sociology course, not a course in film, the history of the cinema, or the structure and technique of film-making. Therefore, it examines a number of important sociological topics or issues, through the medium of film - the 7th art.

The main focus is on the sociological treatment and understanding of these topics and themes, as mediated or facilitated through the cinematic art.

In other words, film, as one of the art forms, can be an effective vehicle for social commentary, analysis, and criticism, and this is where we find its sociological relevance.

Structure of the Course – The course will be thematically organized around films which deal with key sociological ideas and topics. These films will be shown throughout the semester – one film per week.

First, the topic of the film is introduced and discussed, then the film is shown, then a quiz will be given where you discuss the sociological importance of the film.
Learning Objectives – Upon completing this course, students should be able to:

1. develop an enhanced appreciation for film, both in itself as a particular art form, and as an art form that enhances the understanding of society.
2. better understand the connection between film as an art form and the sociological study of social issues and problems.
3. understand the idea of film as a social text – that is, a text of society, or a reflection of the prevailing overall social conditions during the time the film was made and released.
4. “go beyond the story”, as addressed and shown in the film, and to see how the film is addressing a given, specific sociological issue.

Testing and Grading – Testing will be done in terms of the weekly quizzes, and a comprehensive final exam.

Two 3-5 page essays are also tentatively scheduled, the first one to be turned in at the midterm point in the semester, and the second, at the end of the semester. I will provide a handout later, with more specific dates for these essays.

In this essay, you will pick a sociological issue or topic to analyze – (for instance, the social construction of gender, race prejudice, etc.), and a corresponding film in which this issue is addressed.

A grading scale, with more detailed breakdown of course points, will be provided later.

There will be NO extra-credit work.

Effective Fall 2001, core courses in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology must be passed with a “C” or above for all majors and minors.
Attendance - Regular attendance is a critical factor for successful performance in this class. Therefore, an attendance policy will be enforced. Students will be allowed to miss the equivalent of two weeks -- (i.e., 6 class periods for a M-W-F class; 4 class periods for a T-R class) -- for any reason, without a penalty.

Absences for medical or legal reasons do not constitute a special situation. It is precisely to accommodate these kinds of absences that you are allowed to miss the equivalent of two weeks of classes.

Additional absences will result in the reduction of points from the final grade. Specifically, each additional three absences reduces your grade by 5 percentage points - e.g., a B+ to a B-. An additional six absences lowers the final course score by one full letter grade.

If you miss a class for any reason, there is no need to call to notify me. Just make sure you are within the limit of absences allowed. If you are not sure, you can check this with me when you return to class. If you have exceeded the limit, this needs to be discussed with me.

--IMPORTANT: Given that we have an attendance policy, make sure there is no scheduling conflict between class time and other commitments. This is important because excessive absences may lead to official withdrawal from the class later in the semester. (The University Policy regarding this matter is attached).

Students are also required to be on time. The basic guideline is this: If the student comes in after his/her name has been called, it is his/her responsibility to let me know this after class, so that the absence will be removed.

-If you have to leave class early, I must be notified beforehand. Otherwise, this counts as an absence.
Electronic devices — these are not to be used during class. Cell phones and beepers, in particular, can be very disruptive of class proceedings, and should remain off while in the classroom.

Make-ups — We have no conventional exams in this course (except for the Final), therefore there will be no tests to make up. I will, however, drop the quiz with the lowest grade, so if you miss a quiz, that will count as the one to be dropped.

Consultation — Students are encouraged to consult with me for assistance with the coursework as soon as they think they need it. This will definitely improve the chances of doing well in the class. I will be available for consultation during the office hours listed above, or by appointment.
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Crime and Delinquency Studies

Course Related Information

Disability Services: Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of Disability Services and the professor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. All communication between students, Disability Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential.

3D.0801 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY (FSB 95002 approved by President 1/31/96; FSB 03002 passed by Faculty Senate 1/20/04; approved by President 2/9/04; FSB 05002 passed by Faculty Senate 1/17/06; approved by President 2/7/06; title update approved by President of the Faculty 8/22/2010; FSB 10007 passed by Faculty Senate 3/15/2011; approved by President 3/21/2011; updated 10/2/2013) Academic dishonesty, a basis for disciplinary action, includes but is not limited to activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting as one’s own the intellectual or creative accomplishments of another without giving credit to the source or sources). The faculty member in whose course or under whose tutelage an act of academic dishonesty occurs has the option of failing the student for the academic hours in question, or for any components or requirements for that course. Departments, schools, and colleges may have provisions for more severe penalties. Emporia State University may impose penalties for academic dishonesty up to and including expulsion from the student’s major or from the University. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty shall be grounds to deny admission to a department or program. In addition to the penalties above, the faculty member shall notify in writing his/her department chair and the registrar of the infraction. The department chair shall forward a report of the infraction to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The registrar shall block the student from withdrawing from the course to avoid the penalties that result from the infraction.

The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall act as the record keeper for student academic infractions. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will notify the student in writing that an infraction has been reported and inform the student of the right to appeal and of the appropriate appeal procedures. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall notify the student, the department chair, and the faculty member that initiated the proceedings, of any additional action taken beyond those already imposed by the faculty member.

Should a single infraction be so egregious, or should a student have a record of multiple infractions, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs may impose additional penalties, including expulsion of the student from the University. The student has the right to appeal the charge of academic dishonesty (see Student Conduct section). If after an appeal it is found that the student did not commit an act of academic dishonesty, no penalties will be imposed on the student.

A chair of a department of director of a program may request from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs a list of all currently enrolled ESU students within that major or program who have committed acts of academic dishonesty. This request may be a standing request to be filled automatically during each semester until the request is rescinded by the chair or director. In addition, a chair of a department or director of a program may submit to the office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs a list of applicants to a program or major