

COMM0108

INTRODUCTION TO FILM

WESTFIELD  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT  
OF  
COMMUNICATION



### Course Description

Welcome to the class - it's great to have you here. The aim of this course is to introduce students to the techniques and methods of sophisticated film criticism. In addition, the course is designed to demonstrate the cinema's place among the major art forms, attesting to ways in which films of recognized significance inevitably incorporate aspects of the other arts--i.e., drama, performance (both acting and dance), narrative, painting, and

music. The course frequently draws upon the other arts in order to explain how major filmmakers deploy such techniques as lighting, dramatic staging, musical scores and motifs, and painterly compositional inspiration and incentive from artistic movements, such as surrealism, expressionism, and postmodernism. The course also introduces you to major films from a broad spectrum of styles, genres, historical periods and national cultures and seeks to train you in the specific techniques and critical

methods necessary to describe, analyze and appreciate filmic texts.

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Office Hours:  
M: 10:30-12:30, W: 11:30-1:30  
& by appointment

### Course Texts

Barsam. Looking at Movies 5th Edition, Norton, 2015. ISBN-978-0393600650  
Abbreviated L@M

- Films to be screened outside of class either in the library or online.
- A subscription to Netflix
- Supplemental Packet