ENG 2145-American Cinema and Culture (3 credits) A Web-Based Class
Sections 126762 & 126763 – 2015 Fall Semester
Dr. Richard J. Siciliano, Professor of English
Class starts at 8:00 a.m. on Sept. 2 and ends Dec. 16, 2015 (15 weeks)
Updated: August 17, 2015 (2:45 p.m.)

Catalog Course Description: ENG 2145: American Cinema and Culture. (Prerequisite: ENG 1020-Composition & Literature). 3 Credits. Students study American film history, learn to view films actively and critically, and to write critical analyses. (Click here for current CSM Academic Catalog)

Expanded course description: The American Cinema web course is an introductory course that focuses on the relationship of Hollywood films to American popular culture. By analyzing the movies as a form of art, communication, and business, the course shows the complexity and the influence of a major part of American culture, a part that now enters its second centenary. You will learn about analytical theories of cinema, mechanical inventions and technological innovations, the Hollywood Studio System, and several kinds of popular American movies. You will also learn to become better viewers of modern films produced today -- for commercial and home theaters. Finally, you will learn to understand images and values of parts of American popular culture that relate to the Hollywood experiences of all Americans, and perhaps understand America a little better as well.

Objectives of the Course: By the end of the course, students should be able to...

- acquire a working knowledge of American film history, from the silent cinema era to the present day;
- recognize and use the basic technical and critical vocabulary of motion pictures;
- understand how the technology of the cinema relates to film art;
- gain a fundamental background into the economic structure of the film industry;
- understand the role of genre in American film history and to recognize how some of the most popular genres express American social and cultural tensions;
- develop a more sophisticated conception of "realism" as it relates to motion pictures;
- question the role of passive spectators and increase their ability to watch films actively and critically.
- be able to conduct literary research in a focused and analytical manner, as demonstrated by the writing of a research paper focusing on a specific topic, with outside resources correctly documented in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format;
- practice discussing films by writing that demonstrates coherent and grammatically correct standard American English.

Core Learning Areas: The Core Learning Areas represent a common body of skills and knowledge to which all graduates with associate’s degrees should be exposed and for which the college may determine certain levels of competency which will be assessed through the general education curriculum. Some of these are incorporated into English 2145-American Cinema and Culture by means of reading and writing assignments, exams, online discussion, and presentations in various media. For the complete list of core learning areas, consult the current College of Southern Maryland Catalog.

9. Develop complex topics with a rhetorical purpose.
30. Defend a reasonable position.
36. Articulate how historical change shapes the arts, ideas, and social and political structures.
38. Demonstrate an understanding of the essential role of humanities, literature, and fine arts in the human experience.
41. Retrieve information legally, responsibly, and ethically.
Skills Expected of Students: Students registered in the course should have the following entry-level skills:

1. Ability to read and comprehend required textbooks.
2. Ability to write complete and grammatically correct sentences, and to write about films logically and coherently using Standard American English grammar and usage.
3. Ability to use a computer for word processing and to search the Internet for resources related to film analysis.
4. Ability to use the Internet to access Web-based materials using one or more Internet browsers and a high-speed Web connection.
5. Ability to communicate within the Blackboard Learning System Mail Messaging and Discussions tools.
6. Ability to compose, to save, print, and edit Microsoft Word documents; and be able to view returned documents using the "Markup" tool in Microsoft Word.
7. Ability to document sources of information correctly when preparing assignments, and therefore avoid plagiarism. (See "Academic Integrity" below).

Course Components and Procedures:
1. View ten one-hour video programs and three half-hour video programs about American cinema and culture. These video lessons are available online at this URL: [http://www.learner.org/resources/series67.html](http://www.learner.org/resources/series67.html)
3. Contribute to online discussions by replying in writing to "prompts" about required chapter readings.
4. Write one research paper (a film analysis).
5. Take two tests (multiple choice). During the 15-week fall and spring semesters, these tests must be taken in a monitored testing center at one of the CSM campus locations, or an approved alternate testing location.

Students must follow the directions in the Sikov/Belton *Study Guide* for viewing the video lessons. The *Study Guide* integrates the videos with the textbook and provides the key to learning in the course. The units, or chapters, in the *Study Guide* correspond directly to the videos. The units have been designed to prepare students for viewing the individual video programs as well as for reading the textbook chapters that correspond to those videos. They will also help students evaluate and develop what they view and read by reinforcing key concepts and ideas. The course website is the hub of this course and augments learning: it expands on each of the chapter topics, provides a discussion space for students to share their research and observations about the video programs and readings, includes links to Web resources beyond those in the textbook, to which students are encouraged to contribute, allows the professor and students to communicate with one another through a mail message system, and includes an online grade book by which students may keep track of their progress.

Required Textbooks:
The course website is coordinated with the required textbooks listed below, of which the College Online Bookstore has a supply. You may buy them in the store or order them online by clicking on the College Store link.

Both textbooks are required and are available from the CSM College Store only in 4th editions.

- These required texts may be purchased in print form, as e-books, rented, or as used texts. Contact the CSM College Store textbook manager: phone: 301-539-4751: [http://csmcollegestore.com/csmd/main/splash.htm](http://csmcollegestore.com/csmd/main/splash.htm)
Recommended Grammar and Usage resources (available online free-of-charge):

- The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) grammar handbook, from Purdue University: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/)
- Writers Workshop: Writer Resources (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign): [http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/](http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/writers/)
- Essentials of Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage with Practice Sessions. This link leads to Pearson Publication's online grammar and usage handbook. Download this Adobe .pdf file to your computer or print it out for ready reference.
- The MLA citation format is explained in detail in the following resources:
  - Cornell University's resource page: [http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/mla](http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/mla)
  - California State University, Los Angeles: [http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3mla.pdf](http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3mla.pdf)
  - Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL): [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/)

About this Web-based course:
The password-protected course website uses Blackboard Learn as its course management system. The website contains lecture materials, links to Internet resources, detailed descriptions of all written assignments and tests, communications tools (private e-mail and a discussion space), a course calendar, and a grade book for students to use at any time to check on their progress.

ENG 2145-American Cinema and Culture is a sophomore-level college course. Students are expected to know how to write an analytical paper about literature (in this case, films), similar to those research-related papers that were required in English 1020-Composition & Literature, a prerequisite of this and all other sophomore-level literature courses. Unlike courses taught in a classroom setting, the web course American Cinema/ American Culture has certain differences from other sophomore-level English courses. The web course format allows students the advantage of flexible scheduling, but it also presents the danger of procrastination. Since students do not have face-to-face contact with the professor or classmates, they might forget or put off assignments. Students who fall behind in their assignments usually find it impossible to catch up. Therefore, to succeed in this web-based course, a student must be motivated and disciplined enough to keep on schedule without the reminders normally received from a classroom instructor or from other students. The web course format provides students with many various learning aids, such as video programs, the study guide, the textbook, self-graded learning assessments, and the professor. However, students themselves are ultimately responsible for whether they learn the material and satisfy the course objectives.

Class Meeting Times and Orientation:

- **Online Course Preparation:** To determine if distance learning fits your style, take the survey entitled: Are You Ready for Online Learning?: [http://www.csmd.edu/OnlineLearning/SmarterMeasure.html](http://www.csmd.edu/OnlineLearning/SmarterMeasure.html)
- **Online Orientations:** To learn more about how a web-based course works, go to CSM's Distance Learning web page for an online orientation: [http://www.csmd.edu/OnlineLearning/](http://www.csmd.edu/OnlineLearning/)
- Both the self-test and online orientation are highly recommended if this course is your first web-based course, or if you have not yet taken a Web course in the new Blackboard Learn system.
- **To access** the online course *(starting 8:00 a.m., on September 2, 2015)*, click on the link below, or type the URL in your browser: [https://bb.csmd.edu](https://bb.csmd.edu). Log in with your “myCSMD.edu” ID and password.
- **Online attendance:** Students are required to login to the course website on a regular and frequent basis (every 2 to 3 days, minimum). Students who do not actively participate in the course discussions and therefore miss any required assignment will receive an F as a final course grade. See below for an explanation of the “FX” grade.

Requirements & Grading:
Online students generally work at their own pace within the deadlines set by the professor. In that context, this course is self-paced. Students can complete most of the course requirements online through the Blackboard Learning System, except for the proctored on-campus exams which must be taken at one of the CSM testing centers* (See alternative testing centers below).

- Reading assignments from the text and companion websites linked in the Blackboard course, as explained in the Schedule of Assignments, Appendix A of this syllabus.

- Active participation in discussions (30%) about the required readings and video lessons which are to be completed online within the dates noted in the course calendar.

- During the Fall '15 session, three exams (15% each), each containing 50+/- multiple-choice questions, administered in a monitored testing center. The tests must be taken in person in one of the CSM testing centers (or alternate site; see below). The first test is available by the start of the second week of the summer session; the second and third tests from the third week until the deadline published in this syllabus. No extensions to the deadlines or time limits, no make-up exams will be given, and no exceptions to the testing requirement will be granted for any reasons.

  These exams must be taken in person in a monitored setting at one of the CSM campus testing centers or an approved alternate site* (click the link above for hours and days of operation) by the deadlines published in the course calendar. No extensions or make-up exams will be given, and no exceptions to the requirement will be granted. A student should not take this class if he or she is unwilling or unable to meet the in-person/on-campus requirement of taking the tests in a college testing center or approved alternate site.

- *Alternate testing locations for students stationed or residing outside Southern Maryland are possible if a student is unable to travel to a CSM testing center during the Fall '15 semester. It is the student's responsibility to locate an approved local testing facility, such as a cooperating local community college, public library, Sylvan Learning Center, or military training office. However, the student must make these alternate arrangements with the professor so that details are completed at least 10 days prior to the test deadline. The cooperating alternate testing center may charge a fee for this service.

- The Research Project - Film Analysis (25%) consists of a research paper (formal film analysis) of 5-7 pages, including a Works Cited page. See Appendix B: The Research Project for details (page 10 below).

- No extra credit is available in this course.
Fall 2015 Reading and Writing Requirements
(Course starts September 2 and ends December 16, 2015)

Late assignments: The Research Paper must be submitted as a document prepared in Word 2003, 2007, or 2010 attached to the “Grade Center” that is part of the Blackboard learning management system. The research project has a deadline and a cut-off date of 5 days after the posted deadline. If submitted after the deadline, it will be reduced in grade by 5 points (5%) for the first day late, and 10 points for each day thereafter. Once the cut-off date for submission is reached, the project will not be accepted, will be marked "missed," and will receive zero credit.

- No extensions to the deadlines will be granted for any reason.
- No make-up tests will be given if a test deadline is missed. Tests will not be rescheduled under any circumstances.
- The research paper must be submitted to the Blackboard "Assignments" inbox as a Microsoft Word attachment. Papers submitted outside Blackboard will not be accepted.
- To earn a passing grade in this course, a student must complete and submit all required assignments.
- **Major Sentence Error Rule:** In accordance with the college's "Grading Standards for College Papers," if the research paper contains two or more major sentence errors (i.e., fragments, comma splices, and/or run-on sentences) it will receive a failing grade of F: [http://www.csmd.edu/lan/grading%20standards%20rubric.pdf](http://www.csmd.edu/lan/grading%20standards%20rubric.pdf)
- For a definition and explanation of those three basic sentence errors, students should refer to an English grammar and usage handbook. A free online resource covering all aspects of grammar and usage is the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Handbook published and maintained by Purdue University: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/)
- Other graded written assignments, such as discussion posts, containing serious grammatical errors will not receive credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Description</th>
<th>Date due</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading &amp; Viewing Assignments:</strong> See Appendix A: Schedule of Assignments (accessible inside the password-protected Blackboard website), for a complete list of reading and film viewing assignments.</td>
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**Discussions:** For full credit (25%), students must participate in the online discussions by regularly posting at least one acceptable reply to each module. There are several discussion questions ("prompts") for each module in the Discussions area. These prompts are directly related to the readings and video lessons. By the end of the semester, 15 acceptable discussion postings are required for completion of the discussion requirement at the 100% level.

**Test #1 (15%)** : Modules 1-6 (40-50 multiple choice questions, no essays): For what this test covers, see Appendix A: Schedule of Assignments (accessible inside the password-protected Blackboard website).
**Test #2 (15%):** Modules 4-8: (40-50 multiple-choice, no essays).
For what test #2 covers, see Appendix A: Schedule of Assignments (accessible inside the password-protected Blackboard website).

Available in Testing Centers 10/14/15 - 11/16/15 (Monday)
Completion of Test #1 is required before taking the test.

No make-ups are permitted

**Test #3 (15%):** Modules 9-11: (40-50 multiple-choice, no essays).
For what test #2 covers, see Appendix A: Schedule of Assignments (accessible inside the password-protected Blackboard website).

Available in Testing Centers 11/16/15 - 12/12/15 (Saturday)
Completion of Test #2 is required before taking the third test.

No make-ups are permitted

**Research Paper-Film Analysis (30%):** See Appendix B: The Film Analysis Research Project (accessible inside the password-protected Blackboard website), for a full description of this assignment.

Deadline: December 6, 2015 (Sunday)

There is no extra credit in this course.

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<tr>
<th>Grade Equivalents</th>
<th>Point Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FX grade</td>
<td>fewer than 60</td>
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During the fall and spring semesters, an "FX" grade is given at the end of the semester if a student has not participated in the course in a meaningful way (by submitting assigned work and participating in module discussions) since midterm. Simply logging into the course is not sufficient. The FX grade will appear on the transcript and equate to an "F" in the grade point calculation.

**Borderline Grading Policy:** There will be no exceptions to the Grade Computation above.

**Changing to Audit or from Audit to Credit.** Students may change their class credit and/or audit status with permission of the instructor according to the deadlines indicated in the official college calendar. Audited courses require the same tuition and fees as regular courses. To audit this class, students must continue to login and participate regularly in a meaningful way by completing the readings and engaging in the online class discussions for each unit of the course. An auditing student is not required to take the exams, or to complete the written film analysis. However, if a student wants to change from audit to credit, all written assignments must have been completed as of the change date.

**Important Dates: 2015 Fall Semester** (See CSM’s online calendar)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2, 2015</td>
<td>Course website opens and course officially begins, 8:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Last day to add a full-term class</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Last day to change credit/audit status. Last day to withdraw without a grade (summer session #1)</td>
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About academic integrity; How to cite a source:
Along with other forms of academic dishonesty, such as the unethical fabrication of
information and unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism is strictly forbidden. A form of
cheating, plagiarism is the use (intentional or not) of another person's words (quoting),
expression of ideas (paraphrasing), or summary of those ideas without giving the source
complete and proper acknowledgement. Plagiarism may include using a word, phrase, passage,
or graphic taken from another source (such as the Web), either word-for-word, paraphrase,
or summary without acknowledging the source with complete and accurate documentation of
that source. For this course, all sources must be cited using the Modern Language Association
format (MLA). To cite a source in MLA format (and to avoid plagiarism), student writers
must follow this four-step process:

1. Write an effective lead-in sentence that introduces the borrowed information. Start by identifying the
   source by name and qualifications (e.g., According to John Bovee, author of American cinema texts, ...)
2. Quote, summarize, or paraphrase the information accurately (e.g., John Lannon, author of a leading technical
   writing textbook, offered the following observation about grammatical mistakes: "The single most
   common error in ...")
3. Follow the quote with a set of parentheses containing the page number of the source:
   
   Example:
   According to Bovee and Thill, authors of business writing texts, "Communication skills are fundamental to the
   human experience" (27).

   If the name of the author was not mentioned at the beginning of the lead-in sentence, then include the last
   name(s) in parentheses, like this: (Bovee and Thill 27). If you borrowed a graphic from somewhere (a
   photograph copied from the Web or a screenshot from a movie being analyzed, for example), then the creator's
   last name (or title of the illustration) should appear in parentheses immediately following the figure number
   of that photograph, as shown below:

   Figure No. 1: Chartres Cathedral
   (Source: Norton Publishing)

4. Include a "Works Cited" list at the end of the report in complete and correct bibliographic format. This list
   must include the source of everything you cited (i.e., only those works you referred to) in the body of the
   report, including the sources of any illustrations you used. Below is an example of a citation from a web
   resource:
Works Cited


The correct way to write an in-text citation (also called a "parenthetical reference") is explained in detail in any grammar handbook. The name of the source that should appear in parentheses (in-text) must be the first word listed for that source in the Works Cited page. That keyword is usually the author's last name, or the organization who published the web page (if it's an online source with no author mentioned), but never just the website address. The reader should be able to select the first keyword for each entry on the Works Cited page, and using Microsoft Word be able to do a "find" (Ctrl+F) to locate the exact place in the report where you used (cited) that source.

Consequences of Plagiarizing: Anyone who submits a plagiarized report or who commits academic dishonesty with any assignment, whether or not that assignment is graded, will receive a failing grade for the assignment and for the course. The incident will be reported to the Dean of Student and Instructional Support Services. Refer to the current CSM Student Handbook for a full definition and explanation of the consequences.

Preparing Assignments and Projects: With the exception of discussion postings, all other written projects must be prepared with Microsoft Word and submitted to the "Assignments" drop box within the Blackboard learning management system. Although instruction in word processing is not part of the course, students are expected to know how to use basic word processing techniques in preparing their written work. If computer keyboarding or Internet literacy skills need development, students must plan to spend time developing those skills.

Class Cancellation and Assignment Deadlines: In case the College closes because of emergency, the Web course continues. However, if the college web server crashes, students should wait until the network is back online, or should contact the College’s HELP desk (301-934-2251, ext. 4357), or e-mail at: help@csmd.edu. Assignments must be submitted only by way of the Blackboard learning management system's Grade Center, as attached documents. Assignments are due on the dates listed in this syllabus.

Services for Students with Disabilities: If students have difficulty accessing online course materials due to a disability or disabilities, they should contact the Student Success Center/Disability Support Services Office at 301-934-7657 or visit http://www.csmd.edu/Studentsuccess/ADA/index.html

Unauthorized Persons in College Classes and Labs: Persons not registered for this class are considered "unauthorized persons" and are not permitted to access this online class, nor will they be permitted in college computer labs or the college testing center. Registered students shall not share the password or login information with anyone.

Copyright Protection: The online course materials are password-protected and copyrighted. Copying and distributing any online course-related materials to any unauthorized persons are considered violations of Federal Copyright laws, and are strictly forbidden. Federal law provides that persons are prohibited from violating the rights of copyright holders. Violations may be subject to civil and/or criminal penalties including substantial fines and incarceration. More information about copyright law, from the United States Copyright Office of the Library of Congress, can be found here: http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf

Technical Requirements for this Online Course:

- A multimedia computer (a PC or Macintosh) with multimedia capabilities.
- Reports must be prepared using a recent version of Microsoft Word (version 2003, 2007, or 2010).
Microsoft Word is installed on all college computers. You may use any of the computers in the open labs on all campus locations, including Waldorf Center, and in the library at any of the three campuses. Public libraries also have computers for your use, and most of them also have Microsoft Word installed.

- Access to a broad-band Internet connection (DSL, FIOS, cable, satellite, or other high-speed network connection). Most libraries and many businesses have Wi-Fi connectivity. A dial-up connection will not work satisfactorily with the Blackboard learning management system, nor to access the required video lessons, so you are strongly advised not to try.

- The latest version of Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari as your web browser is recommended. Both JavaScript and JAVA must be enabled, and pop-ups must be allowed. Refer to Technical Requirements specified in CSM’s Online Learning web page for more information. Perform "Test Your Browser" by clicking at this link.

- The Blackboard server undergoes maintenance every Tuesday morning, 1:00 a.m. until 7:00 a.m.; therefore this course cannot be accessed during this time.

Meet Your Professor: Dr. Richard J. Siciliano, Professor of English

Office Location -- Room FA-121 (La Plata campus, Fine Arts Center).

- Office hours: If you have questions for which you need instant answers, call or visit during office hours (see below), or arrange for an appointment beginning January 20, 2015. I am available by phone during my office hours, or by e-mail during the week until 5:00 p.m. I will make every reasonable effort to reply to your Blackboard mail messages within 24 hours, but I am not available during weekends, so do not expect mail messages sent after 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays to be answered until the following Monday. If you call my office phone and I do not answer immediately, leave a message and I will return your call as soon as I can. I may be on campus on official college business but away from my desk momentarily. Do not hang up without leaving a message.
  - Wednesdays: 1:00-3:00 p.m.
  - Thursdays: 1:00-2:00 p.m.
  - Fridays: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

- College e-mail: RichS@csmd.edu Important: All course-related correspondence must take place within the Blackboard mail messaging system, not the csmd.edu email address above. The college uses a spam filter/virus protection utility for college email, so many messages sent to college email accounts may be held indefinitely in "quarantine." Reports sent to the college email address above will not be accepted, and messages may not be read until it is too late.

Address for U.S. Mail:

Dr. Richard J. Siciliano
LAN-Department of English
College of Southern Maryland
P.O. Box 910, 8730 Mitchell Rd.
La Plata, MD 20646

Phones (24-hour automated voice mail): Toll-free: 1-800-933-9177, ext. 7826
From Charles County: 301- 934-7826; from St. Mary’s: 301- 884-8131, ext. 7826; from Washington metro area: 301- 870-3008, ext.7826

What You May Expect from Your Professor:

As with any course you take, your instructor can be expected to manage the class in a certain way. In this class, you should expect that your instructor will do the following:

- Assist and encourage you in your learning by directing you to resources (primarily in your textbook, but also on the Internet).
- Discuss the effectiveness of your written work and your discussions of films and filmmaking honestly, objectively, and frankly.
- Return tests and research projects with comments and grades in a reasonable time (usually within a
• Be available by Blackboard mail to answer questions.
• Be available for in-person appointments to discuss progress on drafts of the research paper project.
• Provide you with a continuously updated grade book report of your progress.

few days after deadline) after the deadline for submission.