

COMPARATIVE STUDIES 3607: Film and Literature as Narrative Art

Term: Autumn 2019 MWF

Instructor: Susan Hanson, hanson.94@osu.edu, c 614 327-0580

Office hours: MWF 9-10 a.m. (Hagerty 477) and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Comparative Studies 3607 explores the relationships between film and literature; emergence of cinematic art as a form of representation with emphasis on diverse cultural traditions.

This course meets the **GE Visual and Performing Arts** course requirement.

The goal of courses in this category is to develop your ability to evaluate significant works of art in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students analyze, appreciate, and interpret significant works of art.
- 2) Students engage in informed observation and/or active participation in a discipline within the visual, spatial, and performing arts.

This course also fulfills the **GE Diversity/Global Studies** requirement.

The goal of courses in this category is to develop your ability to evaluate significant works of art in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing; and experiencing the arts and reflecting on that experience.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students understand some of the political, economic, cultural, physical, social, and philosophical aspects of one or more of the world's nations, peoples, and cultures outside the U.S.
- 2) Students recognize the role of national and international diversity in shaping their own attitudes and values as global citizens.

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this particular section of CompStd 3607, we will study, analyze, and compare film and literary metanarratives. A *metanarrative* is a story that calls attention to something beyond itself, typically by calling attention to either its own artifice or its location within the world of stories.

During this course you will gain an understanding of the

- modes and methods of narration
- forms and functions of metanarratives
- principles of and approaches to comparative study

We will focus on works that have something to do with war. The reading list includes fiction and non-fiction; and the film list, comedy as well as drama and documentary. You should anticipate that some of the material is graphic, profane, and disturbing.

You will demonstrate that you are doing the requisite screening and reading by posting to your Carmen notebook. You are also expected to contribute routinely and relevantly to the class discussions.

Screening and Reading Notes and Reflections (3 units @ 30% each)	90%
Final Synthesis	10%

The assignments will be graded based on the standard OSU A - E scale that includes pluses and minuses. As a rule, "A" work is largely excellent; "B" work is very good; "C" work is good; "D" work satisfies the objectives in the lowest possible manner; and "E" work fails to fulfill most of the objectives. If you have any questions about my expectations or your progress, or whatever, you should speak to me.

POLICIES

Attendance is required, a point that bears repeating: attendance is required. For each absence beyond the third one, your final grade will be lowered one-third letter; for example, from B- to C+.

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). I take misconduct seriously. Refer to the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Students with documented disabilities who have registered with the Office of Student Life Disability Services should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. SLDS is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Ave; Tel.: 614-292-3307; VRS: 614-429-1334; Email: slds@osu.edu; Web: slds.osu.edu.

REQUIRED WORKS

Ahmed Saadawi, *Frankenstein in Baghdad* (ISBN 978-0143128793)

The rest of required literary texts are available electronically, at no cost.

All of the films will be screened in class, generally on Mondays, at no cost.

SCHEDULE

08/21 Day One

08/23 Intro to war films and literature (Prescreen crash courses on film)

08/26 Screen in class: *The Lost Battalion* (1919)

08/28 Prescreen: *Shoulder Arms* (1919)

08/30 Discuss: William March, *Company K*, pp. 13-100

09/02 Labor Day—no class

09/04 Screen in class: *Battle of Midway*

09/06 Discuss: *Company K*, pp. 101-200

09/09 Screen in class: *Best Years of Our Lives*

09/11 Prescreen: "Diary of a Sergeant"

09/13 Discuss: *Company K*, pp. 201-260

09/16 Screen in class: *Ivan's Childhood*

09/18 Prescreen: "Night and Fog"

09/20 Review

09/23 UNIT 1 SYNTHESIS--Submit by class time

09/23 Screen in class: *M*A*S*H** ([Script](#))

09/25 continued

09/27 Discuss: Kurt Vonnegut, *Slaughterhouse Five*

- 09/30 Screen in class: *Dear America*
- 10/02 Discuss: Art Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor's Tale*
- 10/04 Discussion, continued
- 10/07 Discuss: Tim O'Brien, "How to Tell a True War Story"
- 10/09 Discussion, continued
- 10/11 Autumn Break—no class
- 10/14 Screen in class: *We Were Soldiers*
- 10/16 *We Were Soldiers*, continued
- 10/18 Review
- 10/21 UNIT 2 SYNTHESIS—Submit by class time
- 10/21 Screen in class: *Turtles Can Fly*
- 10/23 Screening, continued
- 10/25 Discuss: Brian K. Vaughan, *Pride of Baghdad*
- 10/28 Screen in class: *The War Tapes*
- 10/30 Discuss: Brian Turner, "2000 lbs."
- 11/01 Discuss: Ahmed Saadawi, *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, Ch. 1-5
- 11/04 Screen in class: *American Sniper* ([Screenplay](#))
- 11/06 *American Sniper*, continued
- 11/08 Discuss: *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, Ch. 6-10
- 11/11 Veterans Day—no class
- 11/13 Discuss: Brian Mockenhaupt, "I Miss Iraq. I Miss My Gun. I Miss My War."
- 11/15 Discuss: *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, Ch. 11-14
- 11/18 Screen in class: *Underexposure*
- 11/20 *Frankenstein in Baghdad*, Ch. 15-19
- 11/22 Screen in class: *1st Squad, 3rd Battalion; Paul Braun & Philip Morris; Last Viewing; Nature of War*
- 11/25 Review
- 11/27 Thanksgiving Break—no class
- 11/29 Thanksgiving Break—no class
- 12/02 UNIT 3 SYNTHESIS—Submit by class time
- 12/02 Screen: *Deadpool*
- 12/04 Review
- 12/06 FINAL—Submit by 6PM

The schedule is subject to change, but not without notice and good reason.