

**ENG 270 OL: World Cinema**  
Summer, 2008  
Malone College  
*Ad astra per aspera*

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**Required text:**

William H. Phillips, *Film: An Introduction*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005. (Available in the bookstore or online)

**Required films:**

American/British—*Notorious*, (1946), dir. Alfred Hitchcock  
Swedish—*The Seventh Seal* (1957), dir. Ingmar Bergman  
Italian—*Life is Beautiful* (1998), dir. Roberto Benigni  
German—*Run, Lola, Run* (1999), dir. Tom Tykwer  
French—*La règle du jeu* (The Rules of the Game) (1939), dir. Jean Renoir  
German—*The Lives of Others* (2006), dir. Florian Henckel von  
Donnersmarck  
Iranian/French—*Persepolis* (2007), dirs. Vincent Paronnaud and Marjane  
Satrapi  
American—*Mad Hot Ballroom* (2005) dir. Marilyn Agrelo

Some, but probably not all, of these films may be checked out either in our library or at your local video store or public library. I strongly recommend that you get a subscription (approx. \$15/ month) to [netflix.com](http://netflix.com) or [blockbuster.com](http://blockbuster.com) or some large rental service of your choice. Most of these businesses will ship the videos you need at no additional cost. Please also view foreign-language films in the original language with English or Spanish subtitles, as needed.

**Overview:**

This class offers an introduction to films from around the world and to the technical and artistic workings of the cinema. Since Hollywood is still the moviemaking capitol of the world, it will serve as our point of departure for examining foreign films. We will also go beyond passive viewing to become informed about how the cinema works, exploring such artistic and technical components of the cinema as narrative, *mise-en-scène*, cinematography, and editing. We will also underline the connection between analyzing (and

writing about) our experiences of film and a richer, more sophisticated enjoyment of it.

Please be advised: This course might not make you a star or give you the skills necessary to make your first film, but it will introduce you to the ways filmmakers construct and communicate meaning through their movies. **I invite you to share these films with your families, but I do caution you to examine the ratings to make sure that the content is appropriate for younger or sensitive viewers.** You will see and hear some images that will probably disturb you, but we will treat such subject matter within a Christian framework. Part of a liberal arts education involves studying the world as it exists, even its less wholesome aspects, and we can learn from the encounter with other cultures and ideas.

Papers are due on or before the assigned dates; late papers are not accepted; please plan ahead. Papers should be written in MLA, APA, or Chicago style of documentation. I also recommend that you take quizzes after the chapters you read as a way of preparing for the exam. Quizzes may be found at the website for our text: <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/phillips-film/default.asp>

Finally, no prior study of film is necessary; popcorn is encouraged.

### **Requirements:**

- 1) Midterm exam (25% of grade).
- 2) Final exam (25% of grade).
- 3) Term paper (25% of grade).
- 4) Online threaded discussions (25% of grade)

### **Grading Scale:**

100-93=A	77-73=C
92-90=A-	72-70=C-
89-88=B+	69-68=D+
87-83=B	67-63=D
82-80=B-	62-60=D-
79-78=C+	59-0=F

## **Intellectual integrity:**

Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. I encourage all of you to read the “Academic Integrity” policy in the Malone College Catalog on pages 38-40. Should I determine that any student has violated the policy and is guilty of plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty, that student will receive a zero for that particular assignment and a failing grade in the course. Please consult the Catalog for the appeals procedure as well, as this is one of your rights as a student.

## **Course Objectives:**

*General Education Objectives from Malone Educational Goals*

A2: Understand, appreciate, and engage diverse views and cultures, including international perspectives.

A4: Comprehend central concepts and employ key methods of inquiry of the social sciences and humanities.

### *Additional objectives*

1. Grasp the dynamics of some key trends and institutions of globalization by engaging with representations of and responses to those dynamics in a wide variety of filmmakers around the world.
2. Learn about the impact of cinema as a cultural force around the world.
3. Understand the various technical components of filmmaking, with especial emphasis on narrative, *mise-en-scène*, cinematography, and editing.
4. To develop a working vocabulary with which to understand and articulate filmic technique and concepts.
5. To be able to move from an intuitive sense of why one likes or dislikes a film to a reasoned articulation of its particular merits.

## **Course Description as listed in the Catalog:**

Students will view and analyze western and non-western movies, taking narrative cinema as the principal conduit into the lives, times, and cultures of other persons. As a foundation for film studies, we will also explore the artistic and technical components of the cinema: narrative, *mise-en-scène*, cinematography, editing, and so on. Through this engagement with world cinema, the course will underline the connection between analyzing our

experiences of film and a richer, more sophisticated enjoyment of it.  
Prerequisite: ENG 1xx English Composition.