

**Film Studies 219: Modern Movies, 1950-present  
Fall 2022**

**Dr. Robert Murray  
Office: Spellman 105  
398-4125**

**Office Hours: Thursday 4:00-5:00**

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**Textbook**

*Film Studies: An Introduction*, Ed Sikov. Columbia University Press.

**Our goals**

- 1) We will cover some very basic film terminology to enrich your viewing experience of the films and give you a basic understanding of film theory.
- 2) We will view a range of films and discuss and write about them from various perspectives.

Overall, the goals for the class are to give you enough background and information to watch movies differently, from a more informed and critical perspective, and to understand some of the technique and theory behind why movies are made the way they are, the choices directors make, and the language we use to describe movies in a more knowledgeable and sophisticated way.

**Why these films?**

I chose these films because they satisfy a few criteria:

- They exemplify the film techniques we will be learning this semester.
- The order in which I am showing these films over the next 13 weeks connects them in some stylistic and thematic ways that we will discover and discuss throughout the semester.
- They serve as good examples of the range of films made after 1950.

The films are arranged according to the chapters of our textbook, and we will talk about each topic of film theory separately so that you know more about them as we go through the semester, and the films serve as examples. In addition, the films will be connected in more subtle thematic ways that we will discuss each week.

**What is the work for this class?**

The work for the class consists of weekly in-class responses, a cumulative final exam, and class participation in discussions. I will describe these in-class responses further in class.

The goal of the course is to allow you to appreciate and understand films more. Note that does not necessarily mean you will “like” them (whatever that means); rather, it means you should finish this course with a greater awareness of the complexity of filmmaking. I will, course, describe this idea more fully throughout the course.

## **Assigned Work and Grading Percentages**

In-class responses	5% each	=	50%
Final exam			40%
Participation in discussions			10%

## **Learning Objectives**

*Breadth and Proficiency Area – Literature and the Creative Arts*

Proficiencies:        Problem Solving and Analysis  
                              Written and Oral Communication

## **Academic policies**

### Attendance

Because we meet once a week, missing two or more classes will result in failure. Excessive lateness also matters – up to twenty minutes late to class counts as half an absence; more than twenty minutes counts as a full absence. Also see more on this policy below.

### Class participation

Part of your overall grade is based on your participation. This grade is computed by my observing some obvious signs of participation – saying useful and appropriate things to advance our discussion, for example – as well as by my noticing some things that demonstrate an active rejection of this invitation to participate, such as sleeping, texting, daydreaming, talking about non-class related things, taking unofficial breaks from class.

### Classroom Decorum

Turn off cell phones. No virtual conversations of any kind, *especially text messaging*, at any time. These rude activities disrupt the class and distract you, your classmates, and me – and they will have a negative effect on your participation grade for this class. Texting, in particular, is forbidden. If I see you texting – even if I do not acknowledge that I see you – I will take points off your participation grade.

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility within an academic community. An academic community of integrity advances the quest for truth and knowledge by requiring intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching, research, and service. Honesty begins with oneself and extends to others. Such a community also fosters a climate of mutual trust, encourages the free exchange of ideas, and enables all to reach their highest potential.

A college community of integrity upholds personal accountability and shared responsibility, and ensures fairness in all academic interactions of students, faculty, and administrators. While we recognize the participatory and collaborative nature of the learning process, faculty and students alike must show respect for the work of others by adhering to the clear standards, practices, and procedures contained in the policy described below.

Academic integrity is essential to St. Thomas Aquinas College's mission to educate in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, concern, cooperation, and respect. All members of the College community are expected to possess and embrace academic integrity.

### Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is defined as any behavior that violates the principles outlined above. St. Thomas Aquinas College strictly prohibits academic dishonesty. Any violation of academic integrity policies that constitutes academic dishonesty will be subject to harsh penalties, ranging up to and including dismissal from the College.

For all Academic Integrity violations, faculty must file a Student Conduct Academic Dishonesty Report, which will be shared with the Dean of the appropriate School, the Provost, and the student. The student will also have to file a Student Academic Integrity Violation Report. Please view the full policy and the associated forms at <https://www.stac.edu/academics/academic-integrity-policy>.

### Electronic Use Policy

Faculty members at St. Thomas Aquinas College have the discretion to regulate the use of electronic devices in their classes, and students should not use such devices without the expressed permission of the professor. This policy covers cell phones, tablets, laptop computers, or any other device the use of which might constitute a distraction to the professor or to the other students in the class, as determined by the professor. Students with documented disabilities should discuss the use of laptops and/or other electronic devices with their professor at the beginning of the semester.

When a professor designates a time during which electronic devices may be used, they are only to be used at the discretion of the faculty member and in accordance with the mission of the college. Professors may develop specific and reasonable penalties to deal with violations of these general policies. For more extreme cases of classroom disruption, refer to the College's Disruptive Student Policy.

Please note that a browser lockdown system may be implemented in order to prevent cheating during assessments such as exams and quizzes. Faculty are expected to confirm that these systems will work with students' laptops before requiring their use.

Recording of Lectures: Class meetings that include course content or identifiable student information are protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), found at <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>. At times throughout the semester, the faculty member may record their lecture. It is a best practice for faculty to notify participants that their session is going to be recorded. This recording CANNOT be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in this specific course section.

Students cannot personally record class sessions and then share them outside of the course, although they can maintain them for personal use.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Statement

St. Thomas Aquinas College values diverse types of learners and is committed to ensuring that each student is afforded equal access to participate in all learning experiences. If you have a learning difference or a disability – including a mental health, medical, or physical

impairment – that would hinder your access to learning in this class, please contact Disability Services. They will confidentially explain the accommodation request process and the type of documentation that may be needed to determine your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. To learn more about academic accommodations for students with disabilities, please contact Anne Schlinck, Director of Disability Services, at [aschlinck@stac.edu](mailto:aschlinck@stac.edu) or call/text 845-398-4087. Disability Services is located in Room L102 in the lower level of Spellman Hall.

If you've already been granted academic accommodations at St. Thomas Aquinas College, you have the right to receive the academic accommodations that are listed on your Letter of Accommodation. Please understand that it is your responsibility as a student registered with Disability Services to provide your Letter of Accommodation to your instructor if you wish to use your accommodations in this course. If you will need to use your testing accommodations, please be sure to review the Disability Services Testing Accommodation Policies - Academic Year 2022-2023 found at Disability Services Testing Accommodation Policies.

### Sexual Misconduct Policy

Students should be aware that faculty members are required to report certain information to the STAC's Title IX Coordinator. If you inform your instructor about, or that person witnesses, gender- or sex-based misconduct, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner or domestic violence, stalking, or any gender- or sex-based discrimination, the faculty member will keep the information as private as possible, but must bring it to the attention of STAC's Title IX Coordinator.

Students should also be aware that disclosing such experiences in course assignments does NOT put the College on notice and will NOT begin the process of STAC providing assistance or response to those experiences. If you would like to talk to the Title IX Coordinator directly, you can contact Mr. Norman Huling ([nhuling@stac.edu](mailto:nhuling@stac.edu), 845-398-4068). Additionally, you also may report incidents or complaints to Title IX Deputy Coordinators, Ms. Nicole Ryan ([nryan@stac.edu](mailto:nryan@stac.edu), 845-398-4163) or Dr. Benjamin Wagner ([bwagner@stac.edu](mailto:bwagner@stac.edu), 845-398-4212), or you can contact the Office of Campus Safety and Security (845-398-4080). You can find more information at [www.stac.edu/titleix](http://www.stac.edu/titleix).

Please remember that instances of gender- and sex-based misconduct that occur in virtual/online environments are covered by STAC's Title IX, Student Code of Conduct, and Faculty/Employee Conduct policies. If you would like to report a private concern to a confidential counseling resource who is not required to initiate a Title IX report, you may contact the following people on a confidential basis:

Ms. Anne Walsh RN, BSN  
Director, Health and Wellness Services  
845-398-4242; [awalsh@stac.edu](mailto:awalsh@stac.edu)

Dr. Lou Muggeo  
Director, Counseling & Psychological Services  
845-398-4174; [lmuggeo@stac.edu](mailto:lmuggeo@stac.edu)

Dr. Alexa Gaydos  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Counseling & Psychological Services  
agaydos@stac.edu  
Elysse Sellers, LCSW  
Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Counseling & Psychological Services  
esellers@stac.edu

The College also has an affiliation with the following organization, which will provide virtual office hours to STAC students weekly in addition to its other web-based programming:

Center for Safety and Change  
<http://centerforsafetyandchange.org>  
9 Johnsons Lane, New City, NY 10956  
845-634-3344

### **COVID-19 Related Policies and Procedures**

#### Classroom Health and Safety Protocols

The health and safety of students, faculty, and staff on our campus is our top priority. In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the STAC community will continue to work together to support compliance with recommended health and safety standards to optimize the learning experience while minimizing health risks.

Follow quarantine and isolation guidelines. If you feel ill, have recently tested positive for COVID-19, or have come into contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, do not come to campus or leave your residence hall until you have been cleared to do so by STAC Health Services (stachealth@stac.edu). It is important that you always contact STAC Health Services in any of these circumstances and follow the quarantine and isolation instructions given. STAC Telehealth can be used outside of normal business hours. Please also let your professor know if you cannot attend class.

1. Mask policy

Mask-wearing is optional on STAC's campus except for in the STAC Health and Wellness Center, where masks must be worn; however, you must wear a mask if you are directed to do so under our isolation/quarantine policy. Please note that individual professors may encourage students to wear masks in their classrooms, but masks cannot be required. In the event of an increase in COVID cases on campus, the College may decide to return to a mask requirement.

Minimize shared equipment. Individuals should avoid sharing equipment where possible. However, if equipment does need to be shared, please wipe it down with provided disinfecting wipes in between users and maintain physical distancing as much as possible.

2. Disinfect your classroom space.

Students and faculty are encouraged to disinfect areas within their workspaces by cleaning these at the beginning and end of each class. This includes desks, seats, and equipment used during class. Disinfectant supplies will be provided.

3. Practice good hand hygiene. Individuals should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as often as possible or use personal hand sanitizers. Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout the campus.
4. Respect each other. Show concern for each other's health and safety, and remember that this is a stressful time for everyone.

### COVID-19, Other Illness, and Absences

As stated above, for the health and safety of the campus community, students who are ill should not attend classes. Students in the following situations must contact Health Services as soon as possible:

- Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms.
- Those who have been instructed to quarantine because of close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

If a student cannot attend classes for any of the above reasons, they should:

1. Communicate this change with their instructor(s) via email. Contact instructors as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours.
2. Keep up with coursework and participate in class activities as much as possible. Students are responsible for completing any work that they might miss due to illness, including assignments, quizzes, tests, and exams.
3. Reach out to the instructor if illness will require late submission or modifications of assignments; work with the instructor to reschedule exams and other critical academic activities before they are due.

### **Diversity and Inclusivity Statement**

St. Thomas Aquinas College is committed to creating an inclusive environment. Our community actively seeks the inclusion and full participation of individuals from groups that have historically experienced discrimination and prejudice. We are committed to a climate of mutual respect and inclusion, one in which diversity is a source of pride rather than a source of division. We encourage all persons—students, faculty, and staff alike—to reflect on their own experiences to explore the ways in which others' experiences can and do differ; the goal is to use this reflection to learn about different values, cultures, and ways of thinking. Ultimately, a just and equitable society will be easier to realize if we do not exclude those who are different from us and instead practice empathy and inclusivity.

To that end, if you experience or are aware of bias, mistreatment, or discrimination based on a person's (or your own) membership in a historically under-privileged or marginalized group, please contact one of the following individuals to share your concerns:

Samantha Bazile  
Director of Admissions & Chief Diversity Officer  
845-398-4104; sbazile@stac.edu

Cindy Garvey  
Associate Director of Financial Aid  
845-398-4098; cgarvey@stac.edu

Nicholas Migliorino  
Director of Student Engagement  
845-398-4084; nmiglior@stac.edu

Faculty reserve the right to provide open and honest readings and discussions in their classes about personal and institutional biases and prejudices and other topics that may cause discomfort to some.

More detailed information about the College's expectations and policies related to these matters can be found in the Student Handbook, specifically in the Student Code of Conduct, Section D: Harassment and Abuse, the Anti-Harassment Policy, and Rules and Regulations for Maintenance of Order.

## Tentative Course Schedule

DATE	Film (Year of Release) Director	Topic	Reading
Sept 8	Introduction to Class	Introduction	Introduction
Sept 15	Selected scenes	Basic film elements	Chapters One & Two
Sept 22	<i>1917</i> (2019) Sam Mendes	<i>Mise-en-scene</i> ; Camera Movements	Chapters One & Two
Sept 29	<i>Psycho</i> (1960) Alfred Hitchcock	Editing	Chapter Four
Oct 6	<i>Breathless</i> (1960) Jean-Luc Goddard	Editing	Chapter Four
Oct 13	<i>Moonlight</i> (2016) Barry Jenkins	Narrative	Chapter Six
Oct 20	<i>Rashomon</i> (1950) Akira Kurosawa	Narrative	Chapter Six
Oct 27	<i>Network</i> (1976) Sidney Lumet	Filmmakers, Performance	Chapters Eight, Nine & Ten
Nov 3	<i>Wag the Dog</i> (1997) Barry Levinson	Filmmakers, Performance	Chapters Eight, Nine & Ten
Nov 10	<i>The Truman Show</i> (1998) Peter Weir	Filmmakers, Performance	Chapters Eight, Nine & Ten
Nov 17	<i>Get Out</i> (2017) Jordan Peele	Genre: Comedy/Horror	
Dec 1	<i>Dr. Strangelove</i> (1959) Stanley Kubrick	Genre: Comedy/Satire	
Dec 8	<i>The Naked Gun</i> (1988) David Zucker	Genre: Comedy/Farce	
Dec 15	FINAL EXAM		