



*The Horror! The Horror!* Learning Community “Twofer”

**Introduction to Film**  
JRN 180-006

**Composition 2**  
ENG 152-002

**Credit Hours:** 6.00 **Lab Hours:** 0.00 **Lecture Hours:** 6.00  
**IAI Core:** C1 901R **IAI Majors:**

**Semester:** Fall 2015

**Course Begins:** 8/18/2015

**Course Ends:** 12/3/2015

**Class Days/Times:** Tuesday/Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Room:** A345

**Film Instructor:** Jay Geller  
**E-mail:** JGeller@mchenry.edu  
**Phone:** (815) 455-8746

**English Instructor:** Laura Power  
**E-mail:** LPower@mchenry.edu  
**Phone:** (815) 479-7533

**Student Conference Hours:**

**Geller & Power Shared Hours:** Tues/Thurs 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. (in A377)

Jay Geller: D151  
Mon – 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. & 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.  
Tues – 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.  
Wed – 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. & 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
Tues/Thurs – 9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Laura Power: A377  
Mon/Wed – 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
Tues/Thurs – 8:30 – 10 a.m.  
Thurs – 1 – 2 p.m.

**Required Course Materials (Things to Bring to Each Class Meeting):**

**Textbook:** *Film: An Introduction*, 4th Edition, William Phillips (ISBN: 978-0312487256)

**Supplies:** Notebook, Pocket Folder, Pen/Pencils

**Course Description JRN 180:**

Introduction to Film examines the art and craft of filmmaking to improve understanding of and appreciation for the cinematic medium. Students learn about lighting, camera work, editing, sound and character relationship. Films of the 19th, 20th and 21st century are viewed and discussed.

**Course Objectives JRN 180:**

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Define the areas of film including major terms such as camera work, lighting, editing, sound and character relationship
2. Explain the process of film making
3. Compare early 20th century films to present day films
4. Demonstrate an understanding of camera operations
5. Demonstrate an understanding of lighting techniques
6. Demonstrate an understanding of lighting effects
7. Demonstrate an understanding of editing continuity
8. Demonstrate an understanding of transition editing

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9. Explain the use of music in film
10. Explain the use of sound effects in film
11. Explain character exposition
12. Explain character relationships
13. Describe different directing styles
14. Explain the use of film for education
15. Develop an appreciation for the process of film making
16. Identify the different steps needed to make a film
17. Develop an interest in writing a shot-by-shot analysis for different films
18. Demonstrate how to storyboard a film scene
19. Demonstrate the proper use of lighting, sound, and camera position for filming a scene

**Course Outline JRN 180:**

1. How Do Films Tell a Story?
  - a. The use of the camera
    - i. Camera position
    - ii. Camera angles
    - iii. Camera movement
  - b. The use of lighting
    - i. Lighting techniques
    - ii. Lighting effects
    - iii. Visual tone
  - c. The use of editing
    - i. The impact of editing
    - ii. Narrative montage
    - iii. Continuity
    - iv. Transitions
  - d. The use of sound
    - i. Music
    - ii. The spoken word
    - iii. Sound effects
2. How Do Films Reveal Characters?
  - a. Character exposition
    - i. Film acting
    - ii. Close-ups
    - iii. Point of view shots
    - iv. Flashbacks
    - v. Dreams
  - b. Archetypes and stereotypes
    - i. Heroes and heroines
    - ii. Villains
    - iii. Gender models
    - iv. Influence of feminist film criticism
  - c. Character relationships

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- i. Romantic relationships
    - ii. Power relationships
    - iii. Family relationships
3. How Do Films Depict Physical Reality?
  - a. Realism versus expressionism in narrative film
    - i. Imagery
    - ii. Setting
    - iii. Lighting
    - iv. Characters
  - b. The realistic tradition
  - c. The expressionistic tradition (by viewing films)
4. How Do Films Inform, Persuade, and Indoctrinate?
  - a. Film as reportage
    - i. Objective vs. subjective
    - ii. Journalist reporting
    - iii. Poetic reporting
  - b. Film as education
    - i. Educating with public film
    - ii. Educating the public about film
  - c. Film as propaganda
    - i. Historical adaptations
    - ii. Imagery
    - iii. Editing
    - iv. Narrative

**Course Description ENG 152:**

Composition II builds on the knowledge and skills gained in Composition I. Students continue to practice essay writing with a focus on research papers supported by scholarly evidence as well as the critical analysis of literature.

**Course Prerequisite: ENG 151 with a grade of C or higher.**

**Course Objectives ENG 152:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Write college-level research papers
2. Analyze and synthesize information on assigned topics to write convincingly and authoritatively about world issues and literature
3. Use the library and the Internet to conduct effective research, locate appropriate sources, and evaluate all sources for authenticity and relevance
4. Understand principles of source incorporation, both mechanical (signal phrases and in-text citations) and rhetorical (source support, contextualization, and engagement)
5. Avoid plagiarism through accurate understanding of MLA style documentation for paper format, in-text citation, and Works Cited page construction
6. Critique the work of others effectively
7. Demonstrate proficiency in revising and proofreading the student's own work

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**Course Outline ENG 152:**

1. Introduction to Research Paper Writing
  - a. Narrowing Subjects to Workable Topics and Themes
  - b. Readings (Discretion of Instructor)
2. The Research Process
  - a. Information Gathering: Sources (Literary Topics)
  - b. Information Gathering: Sources (Argumentative Topics)
  - c. Readings (Discretion of Instructor)
3. The Writing Process
  - a. Considerations of Purpose, Audience, Form
  - b. Readings (Discretion of Instructor)
4. MLA Style
  - a. Tutorial on Proper Documentation
  - b. Perils of Plagiarism: Source Citing
  - c. Readings (Relevant Handbook)
5. Revisions
  - a. Drafts and Final Drafts
  - b. Scholarship and the Cumulative Effect of Learning

**Assignments and Grading Criteria**

<b>Course Break Down (100%):</b>	<b>Grading Scale:</b>
<b>Source Abstract—5%</b>	(Fractioned grades are <u>not</u> automatically rounded up):
<b>Quizzes—10%</b>	
<b>In-class Activities—15%</b>	
<b>Reflection Papers (10 @ 2% each)—20%</b>	
<b>Argument Paper &amp; Presentation—50%</b>	
	100% – 90% = <b>A</b>
	89% – 80% = <b>B</b>
	79% – 70% = <b>C</b>
	69% – 60% = <b>D</b>
	59% – 0% = <b>F</b>

**Attendance policy:**

Attendance is required in this class. You are allowed four (4) absences with no penalty (Exception—see “Late Work/Make-up Policy” section). An absence is defined as missing more than thirty (30) minutes of a single three-hour class meeting. **Each** absence after the first four will reduce your final grade by two percent (2%). For example, if you are absent seven (7) times, your final grade will be reduced by six percent (6%).

In-class activities and quizzes **cannot** be made up. Ultimately, you are responsible for your attendance and your participation in this class, and you are responsible for contacting your classmates or contacting us, via Canvas message, phone, or during our student conference hours (not class time) if you have questions about any class work that you have missed due to absence.

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**Late Work/Make-up Policy:**

Writing assignments (i.e. all elements of the Source Abstract, Reflection Papers, or Argument Paper) will only be counted for full credit if they are turned in by you, by the date and time they are due, and through the required submission method (sometimes via hard copy in class, sometimes through Canvas assignment submission, but **never** via e-mail). Late writing assignments **can** be turned in for credit for one week (seven days) after the writing assignment’s original due date and will drop one letter grade as a penalty for being late. After the one-week grace period is over, the paper will not be accepted for any credit. No exceptions will be made.

We will be taking eight (8) quizzes throughout the semester. They will be administered and taken through Canvas during scheduled class time. It will not be possible to take late quizzes. If you are absent or tardy for a scheduled quiz (i.e. if you arrive after a quiz has started), you will miss those points and you cannot make them up.

The in-class activities will also either be completed during scheduled class time or assigned and started during class time, then to be completed as homework and turned in at the start of the following class meeting. If you are absent for **any part** of a scheduled in-class activity, you will miss those points and you cannot make them up.

**Material:**

This class looks into **all** areas of films and filmmaking and we will be viewing different horror films with specific objectives in mind. Because of the nature of the industry, at times there will be topics that deal with mature and/or adult themes. You will be viewing films that contain **graphic depictions of violence**, and may contain sexual content, nudity, and graphic language; you will also be reading work that may contain sensitive content about subjects such as violence, gender and sex, religion, and race. If you think this will be offensive to you and are uncertain whether you will be able to discuss these things academically and responsibly, please withdraw from the class. You will not be excused from reading and viewing any assigned material. (Veterans, please note: some assigned material may cause memory trigger. See instructors if you have questions or concerns.)

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when you use another author’s ideas and words without properly giving credit to (citing) the source of the information. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class, and it violates the MCC Student Code of Conduct. Students caught plagiarizing any part of their work will receive an automatic failing grade for the assignment in question, and the incident will be reported to the Manager of Student Conduct & Campus Life for further academic consideration. Students caught plagiarizing more than one time will receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course and a second incident report will be filed.

**Mutual Respect**

The nature of this class demands that students put forth their writing for peer review on a frequent basis and that they put forth their ideas and opinions during discussion in every class period. The goal of this process is to develop each student’s critical thinking skills, written craft, and collaboration and revision skills. We will also discuss potentially controversial topics—such as such as racism, prejudice, sexism, and cultural differences—as they arise from the films shown in class. Students will treat the opinions, ideas, and work of others in class with respect, and they will treat the classroom on the whole with the same courtesy. Disrespectful behavior (including cell phone use and misuse of computers during class time) of any kind will not be tolerated, and students exhibiting disrespectful behavior may be asked to leave class. Consistent disrespectful behavior may result in a conduct report to the Manager of Student Conduct & Campus Life and removal from the class.

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**Weekly Course Schedule:**

*The following is a schedule of activities, readings, and assignments for the semester. It is subject to change. Film viewings will take place on Thursdays unless instructor announces otherwise.*

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**Week One—August 18 & 20**

- Course Overview
- Reading and Writing: Making Connections and Understanding Relationships
- Reading: Chapter 1, “Mise en Scene”

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**Week Two—August 25 & 27**

- Quiz (Tuesday)
- MLA Crash Course, Part 1
- The Abstract: Elements, Example, and Assignment
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Viewing: *Halloween* (John Carpenter, 1978)

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**Week Three—September 1 & 3**

- **DUE Thursday, Sept. 3:** Reflection Paper 1
- Information Literacy Session with MCC Librarian (Tuesday, 10 – 11:20 a.m.)
- MLA Crash Course, Part 2
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Viewing: *Frankenstein* (James Whale, 1931); *Bride of Frankenstein* (James Whale, 1935)
- Reading: Chapter 2, “Cinematography”

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**Week Four—September 8 & 10**

- **DUE Tuesday, Sept. 8:** Source Abstract
- **DUE Thursday, Sept. 10:** Reflection Paper 2
- Quiz (Tuesday)
- Viewing: *Carrie* (Brian De Palma, 1976)
- Reading: Chapter 3, “Editing”

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**Week Five—September 15 & 17**

- **DUE Thursday, Sept. 17:** Reflection Paper 3
- Quiz (Tuesday)
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Viewing: *Let the Right One In/ Låt den rätte komma in* (Tomas Alfredson, 2008)
- Reading: Chapter 4, “Sound”

*The Horror! The Horror!* Learning Community “Twofer”

**Week Six—September 22 & 24**

- **DUE Thursday, Sept. 24:** Reflection Paper 4
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Quiz (Thursday)
- Viewing: *Jaws* (Steven Spielberg, 1975)
- Reading: Chapter 5, “Sources for Fictional Films”

**Week Seven—September 29 & October 1 (Banned Books Week!)**

- **DUE Thursday, Oct. 1:** Reflection Paper 5
- Quiz (Tuesday)
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Banned Books Week: Celebrating Our Freedom to Read (and watch horror movies)! 📖
- Viewing: *The Ring* (Gore Verbinski, 2002)

**Week Eight—October 6 & 8**

- **DUE Thursday, Oct. 8:** Reflection Paper 6
- The Argument Paper: Overview, Segments, and Deadlines
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Reading: Chapter 6, “Components of Fictional Film”

**Week Nine—October 13 & 15-- NO CLASS TUESDAY OCTOBER 13—CAMPUS CLOSED**

- Storyboarding Presentations
- Quiz (Thursday)

**Week Ten—October 20 & 22**

- **DUE:** Argument Outline
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Viewing: *Rosemary’s Baby* (Roman Polanski, 1968)
- Reading: Chapter 10, “Understanding Films through Context”

**Week Eleven—October 27 & 29**

- **DUE Thursday, Oct. 29:** Reflection Paper 7
- Quiz (Tuesday)
- The Annotated Bibliography
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Viewing: *Scream* (Wes Craven, 1996)
- Halloween Horror 🎃

**Week Twelve—November 3 & 5**

- **DUE Thursday, Nov. 5:** Reflection Paper 8
- **DUE:** Proposal Annotated Bibliography and Source SCARABs

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**Week Twelve—November 3 & 5**

- Viewing: *Dawn of the Dead* (George A. Romero, 1978)
- Reading: Chapter 8, “Documentary Films,” and Chapter 9, “Experimental, Hybrid, and Animated Films”

**Week Thirteen—November 10 & 12**

- **DUE Thursday, Nov. 12:** Reflection Paper 9
- **DUE:** Argument Paper Rough Draft
- Quiz (Tuesday)
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- Viewing: *The Exorcist* (William Friedkin, 1973)

**Week Fourteen—November 17 & 19**

- **DUE Thursday, Nov. 19:** Reflection Paper 10
- In-Class Activity (Tuesday)
- In-class review and drafting for Argument Paper
- Viewing: Class Choice!

**Week Fifteen—November 24 & 26—NO CLASS NOVEMBER 26 FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

- In-class review and drafting for Argument Paper
- Presentation small group run-through
- Public Speaking Tips

**Week Sixteen—December 1 & 3**

- **DUE:** Argument Paper Final Draft and Presentation
- Viewing: Class Choice!
- Class Photo ☺

**Please Note:** Canvas will be updated with your final grades by 12 p.m. on Monday, December 14

**Withdrawals:** The last day to drop this course is **November 12, 2015**. Failure to attend class does not constitute official withdrawal. If students are considering a withdrawal, they should consult directly with the instructor and an academic advisor. Students may withdraw from a class through the Registration Office, either in person or by fax: (815) 455-3766. In their request, students should include their name, student ID number, course prefix, number and section, course title, instructor, reason for withdrawing, and their signature. Withdrawal from a course will not be accepted over the telephone.

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Additional syllabus information and resources can be found at:

[www.mchenry.edu/syllabusinfo](http://www.mchenry.edu/syllabusinfo)

**STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING ALL SYLLABUS INFORMATION**