

## COMMUNICATION

### COMF 220 Introduction to Film Spring 2025

#### Faculty Information

Professor: Dr. Cameron A. Pace  
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#### Course Information

Credit Hours: 3  
Semester: *Spring 2025*  
Course Day/Time: *Monday & Wednesday at 1 PM*  
*Fridays are online*  
Location: *Trask 305*

#### Required Textbooks

Monahan, D. & Barsam, R. (2022). *Looking At Movies*, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company ISBN-13: **978-0393885842**

*(Get the digital version unless you must use a book. Make sure to get a new copy that includes a registration code for the online content. Go to [www.wwnorton.com](http://www.wwnorton.com).)*

Johnston, R. (2006). *Reel spirituality: Theology and film in dialogue*, 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. ISBN-13: **978-0801031878** | Edition: **2**

#### Required Materials And Supplies

*Access to Office applications and video viewing.*

## Evangel University Mission

Evangel University is a comprehensive Christian university committed to excellence in educating and equipping students to become Spirit-empowered servants of God who impact the Church and society globally.

## Department Mission

The Department of Communication serves students through a study of communication, incorporating theory, history, and application in a variety of media and non-media contexts. The Department prepares its majors to function effectively as competent professionals with a Christian worldview.

## Catalog Course Description

A survey of film as art from both historical and cultural perspectives, including attention to film theories and criticism. The course is an introduction to film analysis, aesthetics, and philosophy from a Christian worldview. Credit may count toward the general education artistic expression requirement. This course is a survey of the medium of film as an art form. Cultural, historical, financial, and aesthetic factors that affect the medium will be discussed from a Christian worldview. The study of history and the current state of filmmaking will be a part of the student's class experience. Students will be given opportunities to learn about film through class participation, reading texts and articles, writing a paper, and critiquing films. (Writing proficiency required.)

## Learning Outcomes

The outcomes for this course have been aligned to the [Enter name of the accrediting organization/standards here Course Learning Outcomes (CLO), Program Learning Outcomes (PLO); and/or Evangel University Student Learning Outcomes (EU20).

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES			
Upon completion of this course, the student will:	CLO	PLO	EU20
Have a general knowledge of the film industry and production.	X	FB2 *	
Be able to name key directors and films from film history.	X	FB2 *	
Be able to analyze a film from the perspective of a Christian worldview.	X	FB1	I1B
Have an understanding of film's role as an agent of cultural change.	X	FB1	G4B
Have written a research paper on a current topic related to the study of film.	X	FB2 *	
Be able to criticize a film in terms of dramatic quality, production values, and artistic merit.	X	FB2 *	
Students will be able to use proper time management, preparation, and work ethic to meet set deadlines.	X	FB3 *	
Have a general knowledge of the film industry and production.	X	FB2 *	

\*Objectives are in compliance with but not assessed for these outcomes.

## Course Format

The course is seated in a classroom for instruction and training on Mondays and Wednesdays. Friday classes are given online as either presentations and/or assignments. Students will complete assignments on their own time as they are assigned.

## Course Requirements

The class will include the reading of the textbooks (outside class) with follow-up assignments. All written or out-of-class assignments will be used as a basis for the class discussion. Students will complete the following major assignments (smaller, daily work may also be assigned):

**1. Attendance.** Students are required to attend class each time it meets. Absences should be used only for illness or unavoidable conflicts. Keep in mind this is a hybrid course that meets two days a week then has an online activity for the third class meeting (Fridays). Expect an online activity or assignment for this meeting most weeks.

**2. Reading.** Students are required to read the assigned chapters of the texts as indicated in the course outline.

**3. Film Analyses.** Each student will view and analyze **two films** from movies approved by the professor using criteria discussed in class including how the film presents a particular worldview. One of the films analyzed must be foreign-made. A format for these analyses will be given in class. Each analysis must be uploaded to Canvas on the date due or before.

**4. Book Response.** Each student will write a response to the book by Robert Johnston. The response should be 4 to 5 pages in length, double-spaced. Students should summarize the ideas of the book and discuss their own agreement or disagreement with Johnston's ideas from a scholarly point of view. In addition, the student will use the book's principles to "dialogue" with a film. Films chosen for this paper should be listed in the AFI top 100. This paper must be uploaded to Canvas.

**5. Theory Paper.** Students are required to write a paper that critically evaluates an approved film (one not seen by the student prior to taking this course) using one of the theories presented in class. More details of this assignment will be given in class. Proper APA or MLA style will be required – approx. 5 pages in length. This paper must be uploaded to Canvas by the date due.

**6. Exams and Online Quizzes.** Two tests will be given during the semester – one at midterm, the other at finals. Online quizzes over reading material will be given using Canvas/Norton. Students are required to login to Canvas and take the quizzes **before class on the day due**. Students should frequently login to Canvas to check for assignments. Online quizzes cannot be taken late.

7. **Online assignments.** Using the Canvas course software, online assignments will be given as scheduled as part of class activity on Fridays/weekends. It is important to the student's grade to complete these assignments and turn in on-time. These will be listed on Canvas through the course.

### Attendance

Students are required to attend class each time it meets. Absences should be used only for illness or unavoidable conflicts. Only excused absences will be allowed to make up work missed during an absence. Students have a maximum of 5 absences during the semester. On the sixth absence, the student may be dropped from the course. Any student needing to leave class early should notify the professor. **Leaving class for bathroom breaks, cell phone calls, etc. is not acceptable.** Please take care of your personal business between classes. Keep in mind this is a hybrid course that meets two days a week then has an online activity for the third class meeting (Fridays). Expect an online activity or assignment for the Friday meeting most weeks.

### Electronic Devices In The Classroom

It is expected that electronic devices will be used during class to support the students' learning for this class only. Any use of technology that substantially degrades the learning environment, becomes a distraction, promotes dishonesty or illegal activities is prohibited. Cell phones should only be used for academic purposes during class. It is not permissible to answer cell phones or engage in text messaging while class is in session. Should an emergency situation arise that requires you to use your cell phone, please make the professor aware of the circumstances.

### The Temporary Grade of Incomplete

[Incomplete Request Form](#)

### Academic Integrity Policy

Any and every instance of academic dishonesty compromises the mission of Evangel University and violates the standards we hold as people of Christ and practitioners within our professional fields. Evangel expects its students to exhibit the highest level of integrity for all course work. While discussion and collaboration are encouraged as part of course interaction, **all work submitted in any course** (seated, online, or hybrid) **must be the original work of the individual student. Use of services and/or software, including AI programs, to generate student submitted work will be considered a violation of academic integrity. Therefore, students are expected to understand and avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, which includes falsification, cheating, collusion, and plagiarism. Instances of integrity violations will be handled according to the procedures outlined in the University's Academic Integrity Policy.**

Please view the current Student Handbook for the complete policy.

## Accommodations Statement

Evangel University is committed to equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities. Please view the following page or contact the Center for Student Success for more details:

[Accommodations Statement](#)

## Assessment

Students will receive a semester grade based on the following scale:

Class participation/online work	26%
Film Analyses	24%
Midterm Exam	10%
Book Response	15%
Theory paper	15%
Final Exam	10%
Total	100%

## Grading Scale

A = 92.5 – 100	A- = 89.5 – 92.4	B+ = 87.5 – 89.4
B = 82.5 – 87.4	B- = 79.5 – 82.4	C+ = 77.5 – 79.4
C = 72.5 – 77.4	C- = 69.5 – 72.4	D+ = 67.5 – 69.5
D = 62.5 – 67.4	D- = 59.5 – 62.4	F = 0 – 59.4

## [How Do I View My Grades?](#)

## Course Outline

*(Reading assignments are expected to be completed by the date listed.)*

1/8 – Intro to class – syllabus, requirements, etc.

1/10 – Online – take movie survey – begin reading text chapters

1/13 – Film structure – what is a movie? - Monahan chap. 1

1/15 - Cinematography – film production and technology – Monahan chap. 6

1/17 – Online – Video with response exercise 1

1/20 – Martin Luther King Holiday – no class

1/22 – Pre-visualization and production design – Monahan chap. 5

1/24 – Online - Video and response exercise 2

1/27 – Film rhetoric and analysis – themes, worldviews, and propaganda – notes

1/29 – History of film – photography in motion - notes

1/31 – Online - 1st Film Analysis due on Canvas. Upload to dropbox.

2/3 – History of film – the silent era - notes

2/5 – Acting for film – humanity on screen – Monahan chap. 7

2/7 – Online – Video and online discussion “Silent Films Today”

2/10 – Film editing and post-production – Monahan chap. 8  
2/12 – Sound Design and Music – Monahan chap. 9  
[2/16 – Online - The Golden Age of Hollywood – video review & response](#)

2/17 – The Talkies – history and review – notes (start reading the Johnston book)

2/19 – Narrative in Film – Read Monahan chap. 4

**[2/21 – Online -2nd Film Analysis Due on Canvas. Upload to dropbox.](#)**

2/24 –Film and Christianity – class activity

**2/26 – Midterm Exam over Monahan chaps. 1, 4 - 9 & notes** – in-class written exam.

[2/28 – Online - Video session – Classical Hollywood Style](#)

3/3 - Practical and Digital Visual Effects - notes

3/5 - Foreign film movements – notes

[3/7 – Online - Video session – review of foreign films](#)

3/10 – Modes of screen reality – Monahan chap. 3

3/12 – Film criticism & interpretation - Monahan chap. 2

[3/14 – No online class – start of spring break](#)

**[3/17 – 3/21 – Spring Break](#)**

3/24 - Hollywood influence around the world — Monahan chap. 11

**3/26 – Johnston Paper due online in dropbox – in-class discussion.**

[3/28 – Online - Class discussion board on Canvas – “Reel Spirituality”](#)

3/31 – Film theories and rhetorical methods of interpretation – notes

4/2 – Theory and the movies – putting it together – video & class exercise

[4/4 – Online activity – Video and response exercise 3](#)

[4/7 – \(Online class\) Film History – The TV Era and Decline – Monahan chap. 10](#)

[4/9 – \(Online class\) More about Film Theories - notes](#)

[4/11 – Online activity – Video and response exercise 4](#)

4/14 –History of film – Modern Film and the Blockbuster - notes

4/16 –Class exercise – Film theories in practice

[4/18 – No class – Good Friday](#)

**4/21 – The Future of Film and the Film Industry – notes**

**[Theory Paper due today in dropbox.](#)**

[4/23 – Class review for final exam. Class activity](#) – don't miss it! (extra credit)

[4/25 – No online assignment: Review for final](#)

**[SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE – April 25 – Barnett Fine Arts Auditorium](#)**

## **4/28 - Final Exam – (over everything since the midterm) - 12 PM (noon – seated)**

### **University Resources**

Canvas Course Commons

[Canvas Course Commons at Evangel University](#)

The Center for Student Success

[The Center for Student Success](#)

EU Libraries

[EU Libraries](#)

The Write Place

[The Write Place](#)

### **Special Notes and Policies:**

#### **Pace's Acamania Website**

To get the latest in seminar information on a 24/7 basis, connect to Dr. Pace's Web site regularly. Forms, handouts, and other information can be found there for your convenience. Type the following URL address in your browser while on the Internet:

<http://www.doctorpace.net>

#### **Policy on Late or Incomplete Work**

All assignments are due at the dates and times specified. Please be proactive in your assignment preparation and admission! Late assignments receive a penalty of 10% off the first day the item is not turned in. After 24 hours, the penalty is increased up to 40%.

- If there are any difficulties in submitting an assignment, please email the professor immediately! (Doing work at the last minute is not excused.)
- Difficulties with an assignment? Contact the professor before the day its due!
- Online quizzes cannot be taken late. Please make sure to complete the quizzes before class time on date due.
- Taking an in-class exam at any other time outside of the scheduled date and time may result in a 10% grade reduction.

(Technical difficulties? Please contact the professor via email immediately!)

#### **Laptops, Cell Phones, And Other Electronics**

Students should silence or shut off cell phones during class. **You will lose participation points if found to be using your cellphone during class.** Any other electronics such as laptops, iPads, MP3 players, headphones/earbuds, video games, etc. should not be used during class without permission. Laptops and iPads are to be used only for taking

notes. Failure to follow these directions will negatively affect the student's participation grade.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Please follow the guidelines below to **maximize your class participation grade** and help make the classroom environment friendly and respectful of others:

1. Sit within the prescribed areas of the classroom as designated by the professor.
2. Come on time to class – earlier is preferred. Repeated tardies will be recorded as an absence.
3. If you come in late, please come in quietly and quickly move to your seat.
4. Do not leave the classroom prior to dismissal of the class. If you become ill, then you may leave quietly, but you are not expected to return. You may receive an absence for the class depending on when you had left.
5. If you need to leave class early for an appointment that could not be avoided, please tell the professor prior to class.
6. If you need to come late to class due to an appointment that could not be avoided, you should inform the professor prior to the class. However, if that was not possible, please stay afterward to explain the situation.
7. **Keep your cell phones in your pocket or purse.** Having them out and using them during class is a distraction to the professor and others around you.
8. Laptops or tablets are to be used for notetaking only during class. Please bring your textbook to class or may be accessed digitally on your device.
9. Food and drink may not be allowed in certain places or times during class. Talk to the professor about your situation concerning your need to bring food into the room.
10. Please do not put your feet up on tables or other furniture not designated for that.
11. Do ask questions in class and make appropriate comments. Your interaction in class is part of your learning, and contributes to everyone else's experience.