

# ART 200: HISTORY OF MOTION PICTURES: 1895-1945

## Citrus College Course Outline of Record

Heading	Value
Effective Term:	Fall 2025
Credits:	3
Total Contact Hours:	54
Lecture Hours :	54
Lab Hours:	0
Hours Arranged:	0
Outside of Class Hours:	108
Total Student Learning Hours:	162
Strongly Recommended:	ENGL C1000.
District General Education:	C1. Arts
Transferable to CSU:	Yes
Transferable to UC:	Yes - Approved
Grading Method:	Standard Letter

## Catalog Course Description

An introductory course in motion picture history covering the years 1895-1945. The historically significant technical and thematic developments of world cinema are analyzed in detail in the context of production systems. 54 lecture hours.

## Course Objectives

- Demonstrate an appreciation for the development of the motion picture as an art form both historically and technically.
- Explain the sociological links of a "mass" art form; how film reflects the society in which it is produced, both on purpose (as propaganda) and more subtly, such as horror, German expressionism, etc.)
- Demonstrate skills of critical analysis in examining technical and thematic problems of film history such as the development of storytelling, genre development and filmmaker's signature styles.
- Explain the way the film making industry developed around the world as a business, an art form and a tool of persuasion.

## Major Course Content

1. Early Cinema
  - a. The Lumières
  - b. Early story-telling film – the shot
  - c. The "trust" and development of the American production system
2. The First World War
  - a. American production hegemony – D. W. Griffith and editing
  - b. The German response – German Expressionism and mise-en-scène
3. The Russian Revolution
  - a. Film as polemic
  - b. Eisenstein and Pudovkin – montage
4. The Classic Hollywood Film
  - a. Defining a style – technical elements – advent of sound
  - b. Defining genres – screwball comedy, social document
  - c. Exemplars – Frank Capra, John Ford

5. Non-Hollywood Film
  - a. Britain – Hitchcock
  - b. German mise-en-scène in the sound era
  - c. France – non-Hollywood realism
6. Changing Themes as WWII Approaches
  - a. *Rules of the Game*
  - b. *Meet John Doe*

## Suggested Reading Other Than Required Textbook

Academic articles provided on or linked off of course website.

## Examples of Required Writing Assignments

Write a paper critiquing film style of a silent film. Essay on the relationship between early cinema and culture. Discussion board posts about film topics.

## Examples of Outside Assignments

Watch a silent film and write a discuss post on its techniques and respond to other students' posts.

## Instruction Type(s)

Lecture, Online Education Lecture

## IGETC Area 3: Arts and Humanities

3A. Fine Arts