

**NAME OF SCHOOL:** School of Communication, Creative and Cinematic Arts

**COURSE:** SCR 3005: CHARACTER AND GENRE IN FILM

**LECTURER :** DR. SP OTIENO

**CREDIT:** 3

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## 1. DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 Prerequisite:

The course aims to introduce the learner to a practical interaction with character and classification in film. It will engage the learners in practical sessions against choices of theme, genre, cultural placements and trends in the film industry.

## 2. LINK TO UNIVERSITY MISSION OUTCOMES & TO PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the learner should be able:

- Demonstrate effective choices of character in screen writing.
- Examine scripts and critique the relationship between character and genre.
- Critique the trends in characterisation and genre in selected films.

## 3. EXPECTED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course the learner should be able to:

- Evaluate the role of conventions in classification of screenplays;
- Critique the choices of genre in screenwriting;
- Demonstrate basic skills in effective screenwriting;
- Critique the modern trends in screen writing.

## 4. CONTENT & CLASS SCHEDULE: (Indicate: learning outcome focused on, topic/sub topic, readings, and any assignments due in that week)

### 4.1 Week One

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to evaluation of selected films for the relationship between character and genre

#### Topics of interest include:

The relationship between character and genre

#### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- Discuss the relationship between character and genre

- b) Evaluate the conventions in film classification

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: With examples from films you watched evaluate the conventions in film classification

**4.2 Week Two**

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to discussions on the nature of selected classes of films

**Topics of interest include:**

The nature of film classes

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Discuss the nature of film classes

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: With examples from films you watched evaluate the 5 distinctive features in films in ANY Five classes.

**4.3 Week Three**

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to discussions on the nature characters in selected classes of films

**Topics of interest include:**

The nature of characters in selected classes of films

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Discuss the nature of characters in selected classes of films

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Give a brief history of film classification.

**4.4 Week Four**

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to discussions on characterisation in screenplays

**Topics of interest include:**

Characterisation in screenplays

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Discuss characterisation in screenwriting

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.

2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Discuss characterization in films of your choice.

#### 4.5 Week Five

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to art of screenwriting for genres.

**Topics of interest include:**  
Screenwriting for genres

##### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:  
a) Discuss the art of screenwriting for film genres

##### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Write a short film introduction for ANY genre of your choice.

#### 4.6 Week Six

The objective of this week is to introduce the type of characters in screenwriting.

**Topics of interest include:**  
The type of characters in screenwriting

##### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:  
a) Discuss the type of characters in screenwriting

##### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Identify the cultural sources within the given genres of ANY film of your choice

#### 4.7 Week Seven

#### **CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT TEST**

#### 4.8 Week Eight

The objective of this week is to introduce the type of plots in screenwriting genres.

**Topics of interest include:**  
The type of plots in screenwriting genres.

##### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:  
b) Discuss the types of plots in screenwriting.

##### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Write the introduction of a screenplay genre of your choice and explain the choices you make.

#### 4.9 Week Nine

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to discussions on African genres.

**Topics of interest include:**

African genres.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Discuss the African genres.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Write a the concept for short screenplay of any genre of your choice and write your character bible.

#### 4.10 Week Ten

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to discussions on Hollywood genres.

**Topics of interest include:**

Hollywood genres.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Discuss the Hollywood genres.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Examine the plot of any film of your choice and explain the characterisation.

#### 4.11 Week Eleven

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to discussions on character and culture genres.

**Topics of interest include:**

Character and culture in genres.

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Discuss character and culture in films.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Examine the place of culture in characterisation in screenplays.

#### 4.12 Week Twelve (Course evaluation administered by the Academic Program Administrators)

The objective of this week is to introduce the student to discussions on character criticism in film.

**Topics of interest include:**

Character criticism in film.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Discuss character criticism in films.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: Examine the factors that determine character choice in film.

#### **4.13 Week Thirteen**

The objective of this week is to encourage the student to summarise the coursework.

### **Topics of interest include:**

Summarise the coursework.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the lesson the student should be able to:

- a) Summarise the coursework.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Participate in the Discussion Forum on the topics of interest.
2. Watch examples from Youtube
3. Assignment for group 1: Examine the history of Production Design
4. Assignment for ALL: End semester Project.

#### **4.14 Week Fourteen – Final Project**

## **5. TEACHING METHODS**

Seminar presentations, discussions, writing assignments, and film watching.

## **6. COURSE TEXT & OTHER READINGS**

Martha Nochimson et al. *An Introduction to Film Genres* London: W.W. Norton, 2014

Altman, Rick. 1997 'Cinema and Genre'. In Nowell - Smith, Geoffrey. Ed : *Oxford History of World Cinema*. Oxford : Oxford University Press

Ang, Ien. 1991. *Desperately Seeking the Audience*. London: Routledge

Austen, Guy. 1996. *Contemporary French Cinema*. Manchester: Manchester University Press

Bordwell, David. Staiger, Janet and Thompson, Kristin. (1985 ) *The Classical Hollywood Cinema*. London: Routledge

Branston, Gill. 2000. *Cinema and Cultural Modernity*. Milton Keynes : Open University Press

Bukatman, Scott. 1994. *Terminal Identity*. Durham North Carolina: Duke University Press

Cook, Pam Ed. 1985 (First edition). *The Cinema Book* . London: British Film Institute

Christie, Ian. 2003. Interview with Martin Scorsese. *Sight and Sound*. January. p22

Hake , Sabine. 2002. *German National Cinema*. London : Routledge

Higson, Andrew and Maltby, Richard. 1999. 'Film Europe' and 'Film America' : An Introduction '. In Higson, Andrew and Maltby Richard. *'Film Europe' and 'Film America'*. Exeter: Exeter University Press

Moretti, Franco. 2001. 'Planet Hollywood'. *New Left Review*, Volume 2 No 9 May / June. pp 90-101

#### Other Library resources:

You can access Web Based Databases such as EBSCOhost, Ebrary, Keesings, Online, PsycARTICLES, JSTOR, Gale to locating articles in journals, electronic books, magazines and newspapers through the library catalog, which is available on-line from within and outside the campus via the USIU website (<http://www.usiu.ac.ke>). There are 24 workstations within the library, and Wired access points, available throughout the building, provide high speed network connections. There are also other workstations in the computer labs. Accessibility of e- resources off campus is through Virtual Private Network (VPN).

7. **COURSE EVALUATION** (this is a sample; the nature of the course determines the number and type of assessment tasks. Course work should constitute at least three tasks, and the final examination should carry higher marks than the mid-semester)

<b>Attendance and participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Assignments &amp; Quizzes</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Term paper/practical project</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Group presentation &amp; Report</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Mid-Semester Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### 8. OTHER REQUIREMENTS (Personalized)

Students should look for production design worksheet

#### 9. Key Institutional Academic Policies

Students should note the following are key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students Handbook

##### 1. **Academic dishonesty**

- Any intentional giving or use of external assistance during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination.
- Fabrication:** any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise;
- Plagiarism:** any passing off of another's ideas, words, or work as one's own;

- d. **Previously Submitted Work:** presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course;

## **2. Class Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes. Upon being absent from more **seven** classes in a 3 credit unit course or from more than **three** classes for those that meet once a week, the instructor will give a student an "F" grade for that course.

## **10. USIU GRADING**

A	90 - 100
A-	87 - 89
B+	84 - 86
B	80 - 83
B-	77 - 79
C+	74 - 76
C	70 - 73
C-	67 - 69
D+	64 - 66
D	62 - 63
D-	60 - 61
F	0 - 59