



ONLINE

**FLM562 Film Theory
(2 credit hours)
Course Syllabus**

Course Description

This course will explore the development of ways of thinking, talking, and writing about film in a manner that goes beyond movie reviews or personal evaluations. Students will engage film theory from early classic theory to contemporary forms of film analysis. **This course is required of all students in the Film Concentration.**

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify major figures and movements in film theory;
2. Apply concepts and terminology of film theory to writing about films beyond film “reviewing;”
3. Examine film’s role in society and its effect on culture (and conversely culture and society’s effect on film), as well as what film can reveal about ourselves and the world around us;
4. Demonstrate comprehension of the relationship between film theory and the fields of philosophy, psychoanalysis, semiotics, cultural theory, and science.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

BA

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

Nealon, J. T. & Giroux, S. S. (2012). *The Theory Toolbox: Critical Concepts for the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences 2nd Ed.* Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group.

Doughty, R. & Etherington-Wright, C. (2018). *Understanding Film Theory 2nd Ed.* Bloomsbury UK.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

Learning Activities

This course features discussions, reading responses, which focus on particular selections, a journal presentation, and a final project, which can take the form of an essay or film analysis, creation of a syllabus for a film theory course, or a set of lesson plans for specific topic of film theory.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (80)	Discussion Activity 2.1 (50) Activity 2.2 (30)	Discussion Activity 3.1 (30)	--	Discussion Activity 5.1 (110)	Discussion Activity 6.1 (30)	--	330
Assignments Activity 1.3 (70)	--	Assignments Activity 3.2 (75)	Assignments Activity 4.2 (200)	--	Assignments Activity 6.2 (75)	Assignments Activity 7.1 (250)	670
150	80	105	200	110	105	250	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | F: <69%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

- MON: Activity 1.1: Course Expectations - Initial Post

Week 1

- WED: Activity 1.1: Course Expectations - Optional Secondary Post
- WED: Activity 1.2: What is Theory & Why Study It? - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 1.2: What is Theory & Why Study It? - Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 1.3: Reading Responses

Week 2

- WED: Activity 2.1: Applying Formalism or Realism - Initial Post
- WED: Activity 2.2: Debate Formalism vs Realism - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 2.1: Applying Formalism or Realism - Secondary Post
- SAT: Activity 2.2: Debate Formalism vs Realism - Secondary Post

Week 3

- WED: Activity 3.1: Metz, Gorbman, and "Reading" - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 3.1: Metz, Gorbman, and "Reading" - Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 3.2: Reading Responses

Week 4

- WED: Activity 4.1: Journal Presentations - Initial Post
- SUN: Activity 4.1: Journal Presentations - Secondary Post

Week 5

- WED: Activity 5.1: Psychoanalytic/Feminist Film Theory - Initial Post
- SUN: Activity 5.1: Psychoanalytic/Feminist Film Theory - Secondary Post

Week 6

- WED: Activity 6.1: Life, Culture & Transnational Cinemas - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 6.1: Life, Culture & Transnational Cinemas - Secondary Post
- SUN: Activity 6.2: Reading Responses

Week 7

- WED: Activity 7.1: Final Projects - Initial Post
- SAT: Activity 7.1: Final Projects - Secondary Post

Tips for Success

Successful online learning requires a good deal of self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge and review one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery and constructiveness. Your course is a place for you to stretch and grow as you benefit from the expertise, knowledge, experience and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge, understanding and application.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.