



POL 230, Politics and Film, Spring 2019

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Morris M. Mottale

Instructor's Email: mmottale@fus.edu

Office Hours: M. 9:00-11:00 and W. 9:00 – 12 or by appointment, OFFICE 5, MV.

Class location: MV 5

Class meeting times: **M – TH at 11:30 – 12:45**

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Films are a popular medium for transmission of political messages. But what makes a film “political” and how do movies enrich or distort our view of the political world? The course will explore various dimensions of politics and society as they appear in popular films and related literature. Specific topics may include regional politics, war, electioneering, class behaviour, racism, and social anomie. Relevant topics will be explored through films and connected readings.

III. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The goal of this class is to develop an insight and understanding of the relationship between politics and visual media, especially cinematography.

IV. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Suggested book: Daniel P. Franklin. *Politics and Film: The Political Culture of Television and Movies*. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, MD (USA), 2017. Publication complements the presentation of films.

The instructor will periodically e-mail journal articles on relevant topics and the themes approached by the movie makers to be discussed after the presentation of the films.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Students will be assessed upon the basis of their performance on a **midterm examination**, a **research paper**, their attendance and participation in class lectures and discussions, and a **final examination**. The midterm is worth 15%, research paper is worth 20%, and attendance is worth 15%. The research paper must be a minimum of ten pages, devoted to a topic related the politics, films, and mass media. Research will be judged by the ability to use readings and to produce a relevant, original analysis, not a summary. Topics must be discussed and approved by instructor beforehand, and must be submitted in a ½ page proposal by the specified date. A student's ability to employ formal English is an expectation. Correct formatting (Times New Roman font, 12pt, Chicago-style citation) will be standard for the submission. The class final will count as 50% of grade. **Cheating and plagiarism will be severely punished. See official policy in the University Catalog.**

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Refer to the full statement in the catalogue.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Schedule of Lectures and Films

WEEK 1 Introduction: Cinematography and Politics.

The Nazi historical experience: *Triumph of the Will* (1935), Leni Riefenstahl

WEEK 2 Italian Fascism: *The Conformist* (1970), Bernardo Bertolucci

WEEK 3 Totalitarianism: the Communist Experience: *The Confession* (1970), Costa Gavras

WEEK 4 The Experience of the Gulag: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1970), Caspar Wrede

WEEK 5 Cold War: *Bridge of Spies* (2015), Steven Spielberg

WEEK 6 Cold War: *The Kremlin Letter* (1970), John Huston

WEEK 7 Satire on the Cold War: *Dr. Strangelove or: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964), Stanley Kubrik

WEEK 8 Travel

WEEK 9 Travel

WEEK 10 Terrorism and the Middle East: *Munich* (2005), Steven Spielberg

WEEK 11 Political Nostalgia: *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003), Wolfgang Becker

WEEK 12 Politics and Science Fiction: *Blade Runner* (1982), Ridley Scott

WEEK 13 Review for the Final Exam

Film Schedule

WEEK 1) *Triumph of the Will* (1935), Leni Riefenstahl

WEEK 2) *The Conformist* (1970), Bernardo Bertolucci

WEEK 3) *The Confession* (1970), Costa Gavras

WEEK 4) *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1970), Caspar Wrede

WEEK 5) *Bridge of Spies* (2015), Steven Spielberg

WEEK 6) *The Kremlin Letter* (1970), John Huston

WEEK 7) *Dr. Strangelove or: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964), Stanley Kubrik

WEEK 8) Travel

WEEK 9) Travel

WEEK 10) *Munich* (2005), Steven Spielberg

WEEK 11) *Goodbye Lenin!* (2003), Wolfgang Becker

WEEK 12) *Blade Runner* (1982), Ridley Scott

Question for Midterm Examination

What is the relationship between visual media and political propaganda?

Date of Midterm Examination: Feb. 28, 2019

Due Dates for Research Paper:

Date for Topic Submission (1/2 page proposal): Feb. 11, 2019

Date for Paper Submission: April 8, 2019 (Late papers will be penalized)

Study Question for Final Examination

What will be the possible impact of new means of communication on visual propaganda?

Other questions to be arranged.

Date of Final Examination: Please see finals schedule.