

Department of English & Writing Studies

Film Studies 2159B

Disney Dream Factory

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Learning Outcomes :

Critical thinking and analysis skills: By the end of this course, successful students will be able to critically analyse the techniques and formal structure of Disney films and identify cultural and social themes in Disney's oeuvre.

Academic and scholarly reading comprehension: Students will become familiar with reading strategies that will improve their retention, comprehension, and ability to synthesize sophisticated scholarly writing and research.

Understanding Film Art: Students will become familiar with some key terms, techniques, and formal properties of film and animation.

Research and academic writing: Students will gain experience in independent research in the field of film studies and criticism. Students will also develop, write, and be assessed upon their ability to present their i (ilit)30 (r)-66 -4on.nd(s)-2 (eb-6.6 (st7 (c)-6.6 (s)8.0.5 (r)-6a (l)2.7 (l)2.6 (-2 (s)-2n39 -1

**Brief Description of Assessments :**

**Class Attendance and Participation:** We will be taking attendance each class. Participation will be in the form of contributions to in-class discussions and participation in group activities.

**Informal Reflection or Creative Project :** You may write a short piece that incorporates and engages key terms, techniques, and topics with reference to up to two films that we have watched thus far. This assignment is intended to give you a chance to evaluate

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drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### Plagiarism :

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

### Plagiarism Checking :

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

## Timetable

### Week 1: Jan 10<sup>th</sup>—Disney's Early Animation

Course introduction; review of syllabus; introducing Disney; introducing some film and animation terms.

### Week 2: Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>—The Golden Era: ***Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*** (Hand et. al 1937)

Reading:

- ❖ “Breaking the Disney Spell” by Jack Zipes in *From Mouse to Mermaid* (pp. 21-42)
- ❖ *From Wasko Understanding Disney*—pp. 15-18; 138-140

### Week 3: Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>—The Silver Era: ***Peter Pan*** (Luske, Jackson, and Geronimi; 1953)

Reading:

- ❖ “The Disney Version: Peter Pan” by David Martínez [OWL]
- ❖ *From Wasko Understanding Disney*—pp. 18-26; 122-129; 150-155

Recommended reading:

- ❖ “‘But He’s So Serious’: Framing of Masculinity Among Western Hemisphere Indigenous Peoples in Disney Animated Films” by Tim Luisi [OWL]

### Week 4: Jan 31<sup>st</sup>—The Bronze Era: ***Robin Hood***

Reading:

- ❖ “Animated Conversations in Nottingham: Disney’s Robin Hood (1973)” by Andrew Lynch [OWL]
- ❖ *From Wasko Understanding Disney*—pp. 155-157

### Week 5: Feb 7<sup>th</sup>—Disney’s “Renaissance”: ***The Little Mermaid*** (Musker & Clements 1989) \*

Reading:

- ❖ “‘Where Do The Mermaids Stand?’ Voice and Body” by Laura Sells, in *The Little Mermaid* in *From Mouse to Mermaid* pp. 175-192;
- ❖ *From Wasko Understanding Disney*—pp. 33-38; 141-148

\*This screening is subject to access. I may have to substitute this film with another, in which case the readings would also be substituted.

Week 6: Feb 14<sup>th</sup>

Week 8: March 7<sup>th</sup>—“Neo -Disney”: *The Princess and the Frog* (2009)

Reading :

- ❖ “Scripting the Way for the 21st-Century Disney Princess in *The Princess and the Frog*”  
by Kimberly R. Moffitt [OWL]
- ❖ From Wasko *Understanding Disney*—pp. 39-45; 51-53

Week 9: March 14