

Department of English & Writing Studies
Film Studies Program

Film 3366F (Section 001)¹
Film Noir and the Crime Genre
Fall 2023

SYLLABUS NAVIGATION

[Course Materials \(films and readings\)](#)

[Attendance & Late Policy](#)

[Intent6 412.92 591 Tm \(\)Tj ET /CS8.4hurAA& Resources](#)

[Methods of Evaluation](#)

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[Course Description](#)

Film noir emerged as an identifiable phenomenon in the United States in the 1940s and continues to influence contemporary culture. This course challenges students to consider film noir and its historical and cultural contexts, considering the way it both emerges from and shapes aesthetic and social visions. We will consider its distinctive representations of crime, the law, racial issues, ideas about masculinity and femininity, the impact of American consumer culture. While “noir” is one of the most widely applied descriptions of film style, it is also one of the most notoriously contentious filmic categories: is it a genre, a period, an aesthetic, a mood, a psychology, a philosophy, an associated set of themes, icons, character types, and/or

Course Materials

Links to film streaming sources and critical readings are in the Schedule of Films and Readings in the Syllabus folder in OWL.

Methods of Evaluation³

ASSIGNMENT	VALUE	LENGTH/FORMAT	DUE DATE
OWL scavenger hunt	1%		

more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Religious Accommodation:

ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW

OWL Scavenger Hunt	Due in class or by Sept. 15 th	Value 1% (bonus)
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Find the four easter egg links in the following locations in the syllabus. Email a description of each image to mjones@uwo.ca using the header “Scavenger.”

1. Where the breakdown of grades is listed...
2. Resources if you find yourself in distress...
3. Policies on the use of ChatGPT...
4. Offensive language in films vs. in class...

Selfie Noir	Due Friday, September 22 nd	Value 5%
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Read Place & Peterson’s essay “Some Visual Motifs of Film Noir” (in OWL Resources folder). Take a cell phone photo of yourself (or 30 second video, if you prefer). Write a short paragraph (500 words) under the heading Commentary, identifying and explaining the formal features of your image that are suggestive of film noir style. In the same document, under the heading Biography (max. 250 words), introduce yourself, including the Film courses you have taken and your interest in Film. The second section won’t be marked.

Sequence Analysis	October 25 th	Value 10%
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This is a short analysis of a film sequence taken from one of the films on the course and posted on OWL on October 18th. Detailed instructions are available on OWL in the Assignments folder.

Neo-Noir Assignment	Due November 15 th	Value 25%
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This assignment allows you to consider the ways in which noir style has been elaborated in recent culture. It will develop your presentation skills. For this assignment, you will choose a recent (post 2020) film, television series, novel, computer game, fashion line, or advertisement. You will complete a 5-minute narrated PowerPoint on the text you have chosen, demonstrating how it exemplifies “the persistence of noir” in contemporary culture and reflecting on how noir influences impact on its meaning. You should also consider its innovations to and/or reactions against conventional noir characteristics. For the last day of classes, students will screen the presentations before class and we will use them as a way of reviewing the course material and ideas developed out of it. Detailed instructions for this assignment are available on OWL in the Assignments folder. You may choose to collaborate with up to two other students on this assignment, in which case you should get approval from the instructor for the collaboration and negotiate a fair length.

Essay	Due December 6 th	Value 25%
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This is a short comparative essay of 1,500 words on a topic developed in consultation with the instructor or from a list of suggested themes included in the Assignments folder in OWL.

Participation	Weekly	Value 5%
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This grade is based on your active engagement in class and participation in discussions, presentations, and assignments. It is based on your attendance and participation in class and your ability to contribute to the learning process. It is based on your ability to work independently and in groups, and your ability to communicate effectively. It is based on your ability to apply the concepts and theories learned in class to new situations. It is based on your ability to analyze and evaluate information, and your ability to synthesize and create new ideas. It is based on your ability to work under pressure and to meet deadlines. It is based on your ability to take responsibility for your own learning and to seek help when needed. It is based on your ability to work well with others and to contribute to the success of the group. It is based on your ability to be a team player and to support your fellow students. It is based on your ability to be a leader and to inspire others. It is based on your ability to be a critical thinker and to challenge the status quo. It is based on your ability to be a creative problem solver and to think outside the box. It is based on your ability to be a self-motivated learner and to take initiative. It is based on your ability to be a responsible and ethical citizen and to contribute to the betterment of society. It is based on your ability to be a lifelong learner and to stay current in your field. It is based on your ability to be a resilient and adaptable individual and to overcome challenges. It is based on your ability to be a confident and assertive communicator and to express your ideas clearly. It is based on your ability to be a disciplined and organized individual and to manage your time effectively. It is based on your ability to be a curious and inquisitive individual and to ask questions. It is based on your ability to be a collaborative and team-oriented individual and to work well with others. It is based on your ability to be a self-reflexive individual and to reflect on your own learning and growth. It is based on your ability to be a resilient and adaptable individual and to overcome challenges. It is based on your ability to be a confident and assertive communicator and to express your ideas clearly. It is based on your ability to be a disciplined and organized individual and to manage your time effectively. It is based on your ability to be a curious and inquisitive individual and to ask questions. It is based on your ability to be a collaborative and team-oriented individual and to work well with others. It is based on your ability to be a self-reflexive individual and to reflect on your own learning and growth.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The spaces where we teach and learn at Western are located on traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, L naapéewak, and Chonnonton Nations. The land continues to be enriched by the presence of diverse Indigenous peoples. Making this acknowledgement is meant to inspire action and commitment towards furthering relationships with Indigenous communities here and elsewhere.

SCHEDULE OF FILMS AND READINGS 2023-2024

WEEK	DATE	YEAR	FILM TITLE	DIRECTOR	ACCESS	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
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