PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A SAMPLE SYLLABUS ONLY

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER FOR FALL, 2007:
TIPPI HEDREN, LEAD ACTRESS IN “THE BIRDS” AND “MARNIE”:
OCTOBER 30, 2007, 1 PM, AET 235

FILM 9
FILMS OF ALFRED HITCHCOCK, MASTER OF SUSPENSE

Fall, 2006 Schedule subject to revision
Instructor: Dr. Sheila Laffey
Contact: email to echoprod@adelphia.net or leave message in mailroom
(or SMC extension 434-8278)
Class meets: Tuesdays, 12:45 PM to 4:50 PM, AET 235

Course Description: This course covers a limited number of film directors, writers, producers, and/or actors, examining their work in artistic, social, and historical terms. The course content and emphasis changes each term.

Assigned Texts: The Art of Alfred Hitchcock, Fifty Years of His Motion Pictures,
Hitchcock, Francois Truffaut, revised edition, Simon & Schuster
Supplementary texts (not required)
Hitchcock: The Murderous Gaze, William Rothman, Harvard U Press. Bill was my thesis advisor. He was also my Hitchcock mentor, along with Spoto in NYC. His book offers brilliant close visual analyses of The Lodger, Murder!, The Thirty Nine Steps, Shadow of a Doubt and Psycho. Hitchcock's Films, Robin Wood. This is a tiny paperback chock full of insights you can carry in your back pocket. Focuses on Stangers on a Train, Rear Window, Vertigo, North by Northwest, Psycho, The Birds, Marnie & Torn Curtin, in particular.
Hitchcock, Doubleday, George Perry


Course Requirements: Grades will be based on two quizzes (22% each for a total of 44%), one oral presentation or creative exercise/acting or 1 page personal/issues essay (12%), two papers (14% for first paper which is to be written in class and 20% for paper #2 to be handed in), outline for Paper #2 (2%), and class attendance (8%) & up to two extra points for class participation. A total of these points adds up to 102.

Three quizzes will be given in class but the two highest grades are the ones which will be calculated for the final grade. The lowest of the three quiz grades will be dropped. This eliminates the need for make-up quizzes. NO make up quizzes will be given. Students are expected to
take all three quizzes. You will miss valuable screenings and
discussion if you miss the quizzes AND you will miss attendance points.

Attendance for each class is worth 1/2 pt. Lateness and leaving early
will disqualify you from receiving the 1/2 pt. Class participation and
excellent attendance can make a big difference if student is hovering
between two final grades. Students who miss the first two classes will
be dropped from the class. Students are responsible for finding out
what they miss in class. Sometimes I show additional clips in class
from other films.

Quizzes will include multiple choice and choice of essays. No make-ups
for tests will be given; please plan weddings, trips, etc. accordingly.
Test #3 is scheduled on the date of the last class. All students are
expected to take the last test. NO late assignments will be accept-ed
after the last class. Assignments sent via email are also not accepted
Preparation: The library has audio-visual facilities to review films,
if you don't have a VCR or DVD at home.

Withdrawal: Students who drop the course but do not officially withdraw
by the deadline please note that your name still appears on the
school’s roster and professors are required to give you a grade. You
will, therefore, receive an “F” for not completing the course.

Meetings: Students are encouraged to meet with me after class if you
would like to discuss your understanding of the material, films in
general, your career goals, etc. To meet before class or on the main
campus on Fridays please make an appointment. I would like to talk to
EACH student at least once during the course.

Extra Credit: “Ebert and Roeper At the Movies,” airs Sundays, 6:30 PM
on ABC. Each test will have a question related to film(s) covered on
the show during the period from one test to the next. There may be
other extra credit options for film events on campus.

Extra Credit: Sustainable Works. 12 extra points to be added to your
Quiz #3 grade if you complete this program AND write a one page
treatment for a short film about your experience(s). A brief film
about this eye opening program will be shown in class, and there will
be an opportunity to sign up. Sessions are held in the Environmental
Studies Center on 1744 Pearl St. This can be a memorable experience in
which you see that you CAN make a difference! For more info:
www.sustainableworks.com. The one page treatment is due on the day of
the last screening.

FILM CLUB meets Tuesdays, 11:15 - 12:30 PM in LS 152. Professor Kanin
and I are co-advisors.

Professor’s Background See my SMC faculty home page for info on my
films, location stills, links to resources for environmental films,
interviews, etc. I earned a Masters and Ph.D. from NYU in Cinema
Studies.

GUIDELINES: ORAL PRESENTATION OR CREATIVE EXERCISE OR ONE PAGE PERSONAL
(OR ISSUE) ESSAY OR ACTING

Choose ONE of the following to explore the dynamics of film:
1) ORAL PRESENTATION: Review a 2-3 minute sequence from a film of your own choosing that shows suspense or relates to Hitchcock's work cinematically or thematically. Your analysis should be about 3 minutes (in addition to the clip). Introduce the film by giving the title, date and director and why you chose this film and this sequence. Briefly comment on two or more of the following: cinematic elements (lighting, composition, audio, art direction, editing, etc.) theme, character/acting and what they contribute to the sequence. Remarks that are longer than 3 minutes may be cut off due to time.

2) ACTING: If you are interested in acting you can present a character related to a scene or sequence in a Hitchcock film, or a parody of one. You may do this with another student from the class or a friend willing to do this with you in class.

3) 1 PAGE PERSONAL OR ISSUE ESSAY - typed. Explore a Hitchcock film shown in class or any other Hitchcock film in terms of your personal response and/or consider it from a current issue point of view. This is not to be a standard review or analysis. Write about your own PERSONAL response to the film and/or about whether you find it relevant today or not. This should be handed in anytime but by Nov. 28 at latest.

4) VISUAL COLLAGE on a theme(s) or cinematic elements or otherwise related to the work of Hitchcock. These images could be on poster board or handed in on CD. Images and their arrangement should provoke thought in a creative way or lead the viewer to appreciate Hitchcock's work. (One student in Film 1 presented a series of images depicting or suggesting wind from Asian films on a CD).

Tips for oral presentation: write an outline of the points you wish to make so you stay on track. Time your sequence and remarks so you don't go over time. Maintain eye contact with your "audience." Breath, have fun and be creative!

Assignments in texts should be read by the dates below.

Aug. 29 Film techniques in "The Power of One", ECO PSA Types of shots - sequence analysis from It's a Wonderful Life Clips on film noir from Visions of Light Strangers on a Train

Sept. 5 CHAPTER 23: STRANGERS ON A TRAIN (Spoto)
CHAPTER 10 (Truffaut)
Sign up for date if you are doing an oral presentation or acting
Short film on Sustainable Works for extra credit (see above)
Documentary #1 on Hitchcock Film to be announced

Sept. 12 CHAPTERS 1 - 4 (Spoto)
CHAPTERS 1-4 (Truffaut)
Sign up for date if you are giving an oral presentation or acting
Sign up for Sustainable Works for extra credit (see above) Films to be announced
Sept. 19  CHAPTER 5: SECRET AGENT (Spoto)
          CHAPTER 6: SABOTAGE (Spoto)
          CHAPTER 7: YOUNG & INNOCENT (Spoto)
          CHAPTER 5 (Truffaut)
     Discussion of suggestions for Paper #2
     Films to be announced

Sign up for date if you are giving an oral presentation or acting

Sept. 26   CHAPTER 8: THE LADY VANISHES (Spoto)
          CHAPTER 9: JAMAICA INN (Spoto)
          CHAPTER 10: REBECCA (Spoto)
          CHAPTER 6 (Truffaut)
     Films to be announced
     Clips about Greg Toland & REBECCA from VISIONS OF LIGHT

WED., SEPT. 30, 6:30 PM  extra credit question about my presentation
will be on quiz #1 next week  (or you can do Ebert program question) Professor
Laffey on “Media that Matters: Can Environmental Films Help Save the
Planet?”, Enviro Issues Lecture Series, Bundy 123, Free

Oct. 3  Quiz #1 - NO MAKE-UP, - no make up
     Extra credit question on Ebert and Roeper at the Movies
     CHAPTER 11: FOREIGN CORRESPONDANT (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 12: MR. AND MRS. SMITH (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 13: SUSPICION (Spoto)
     SUSPICION

Oct. 10  CHAPTER 14: SABOTEUR (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 15: SHADOW OF A DOUBT (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 7 (Truffaut)
     Discuss outline ideas - outline for Paper #2 due Oct. 31
     SHADOW OF A DOUBT & clips on film noir

Oct. 17  Paper #1  ASSIGNED TOPIC TO BE WRITTEN IN CLASS
If you miss this you should write next week about that film in class

     CHAPTER 16: LIFEBOAT (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 17: SPELLBOUND (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 8 (Truffaut)
     SPELLBOUND

Oct. 24  CHAPTER 18: NOTORIOUS (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 19: THE PARADINE CASE (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 20: ROPE (Spoto)
     CHAPTER 9 (Truffaut)
     Films to be announced

EARLY DUE DATE FOR 1 PAGE PERSONAL OR ISSUE ESSAY
    IF YOU ARE NOT DOING ORAL PRESENTATION OR ACTING)

Oct. 31  DUE: Outline for Paper #2  (2 pts.)
     (see guidelines for paper and sample outline to be handed
out)  CHAPTER 21: UNDER CAPRICORN
CHAPTER 22: STAGE FRIGHT
CHAPTER 24: I CONFESS
CHAPTER 25: DIAL M FOR MURDER
CHAPTER 26: REAR WINDOW
CHAPTERS 10 - 11 (Truffaut)
Films to be announced

Nov. 7 CHAPTER 27: TO CATCH A THIEF
CHAPTER 28: TROUBLE WITH HARRY
CHAPTER 29: THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH
CHAPTER 30: THE WRONG MAN
CHAPTER 31: VERTIGO
CHAPTERS 11 - 12 (Truffaut)
Vertigo

Quiz #2 - NO MAKE-UP,
Extra credit question on Ebert and Roeper at the Movies

Nov. 14 CHAPTER 32: NORTH BY NORTHWEST
REVIEW CHAPTER 12 (Truffaut)
Clips from doc on production design and this film
NORTH BY NORTHWEST & other film

PAPER #2 EARLY DUE DATE (you will receive 3 extra points if handed in today) OTHERWISE DUE DATE IS NOV. 21 (see guidelines minimum 4 pages, typed, see guidelines to be handed out)

Nov. 21 CHAPTER 33: PSYCHO (Spoto)
CHAPTER 13 (Truffaut)
Psycho
Documentary #2 on Hitchcock

PAPER #2 LAST DUE DATE
see guidelines below, minimum 4 pages, typed
(Grade lowered half grade for each class paper is overdue)

Nov. 28 CHAPTER 34: THE BIRDS (Spoto)
CHAPTER 14 (Truffaut)
The Birds and other film to be announced FINAL DUE DATE FOR
1 PAGE PERSONAL OR ISSUE ESSAY
(IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE ORAL PRESENTATION OR ACTING)
(Grade lowered half grade for each class paper is overdue)

Dec. 5 CHAPTER 35: MARNIE (Spoto)
CHAPTER 36: TORN CURTIN (Spoto)
CHAPTER 37: TOPAZ (Spoto)
CHAPTER 15 (Truffaut)
Films to be announced

Dec. 12 CHAPTER 38: FRENZY (Spoto)
CHAPTER 39: FAMILY PLOT (Spoto)
CHAPTER 16 (Truffaut)

Quiz #3 NO MAKE-UP
1) Extra credit question on Ebert and Roeper at the Movies,
2) Extra credit: Sustainable Works program. 12 extra points to be added to your highest quiz grade if you completed the program. Today is the due date for the one page treatment for a film about your experience(s) in the program. Please see me for guidelines for writing a treatment. You can write it after quiz but best to do it ahead of time.
No late assignments will be accepted after today.

Enjoy the rest of your life and feel free to stay in touch!
Professor Laffey