Regent University Mission Statement:
Regent University serves as a center of Christian thought and action to provide excellent education through a Biblical perspective and global context equipping Christian leaders to change the world.

School of Communication & the Arts Mission Statement:
To prepare emerging and established Christian leaders to inspire, enrich and transform the media, the arts, and the academy through excellence and innovation in scholarship and practice.

COURSE SYLLABUS

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF CINEMA-TELEVISION

CTV 609
HISTORY OF AMERICAN CINEMA I: THE STUDIO ERA
FALL 2013
COURSE TYPE: DISTANCE

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: LORENE M. WALES, PH.D.

All students are required to read and have a thorough understanding of the syllabus. Any questions or concerns need to be addressed to the instructor.

SECTION 1 – COURSE OVERVIEW

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: Lorene M. Wales
Telephone: 757-352-4209
Fax: 757-352-4275
E-mail: loredur@regent.edu
> In the subject line of your email, please include the course number (e.g. SSW 514) and have your full name in your email signature. *Note*: All students are required to keep their mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers up to date in GENISYS to facilitate communication between instructors and students.

Office Hours: TBD
Office Location: COM 264
Best time to contact me: During office hours

Welcome!

SHORT BIO

Before coming to this school, I spent over 20 years, working in or studying the craft of filmmaking. Most of my career was spent in Los Angeles, California, where I worked on everything from low budget independent features to big budget motion pictures. I started out as a production assistant and worked my way up to producing throughout the years. I came to Regent 15 years ago, answering His call to teach. In all that time I've developed a passion and love for the crazy wonderful history of our cinema. With God's grace, I will impart to you all that I have learned.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Historical survey of the development of narrative American cinema from the early days to the denouement of silent film in the late 1920s, followed by the development of sound and the Golden Age of the studio system in the 1930s through the 1950s. Investigate the aesthetic, technological, economic and sound dimensions of the classical Hollywood narrative film. May be taken online if student can verify access to the required films.

> **Theme Scripture: "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever."**
>
> 1 Peter 1:24:25

INTEGRATION OF FAITH

The foundations of our belief in Christ are both implicit and explicit in our writing, discussions and speech. This as all courses in the department of cinema-television is ultimately concerned with how the committed Christian can blend his/her faith with what they learn. Especially of concern is how the issues raised by the course are to be considered in comparison to your own worldview. You will be encouraged to consider all readings, screenings and discussions in light of your own Christian faith.

SECTION 2 – COURSE EXPECTATIONS

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- **Outcome:** To **identify** the various house styles of two key studios – Warner Brothers and MGM – dating from their genesis to the "stylistic imperatives" that are still being used today.

    o   Assessed by reading two written essays exams.

- **Outcome: Demonstrate** an understanding of people and personality types that shaped the studio system.

    o   Assessed by a comprehensive presentation to the class.

- **Outcome: Develop** a mastery of various key historical aspects of the studio system.

    o   Assessed by a final research paper or creative work that centers on a filmmaker (writer, producer, director, actor, etc.) and their work during the studio era.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students are responsible for acquiring the following books and materials for this course **before the first class meeting**:

- The American Film Industry by Tino Balio, University of Wisconsin Press, 1985.
- Memo from David O'Selznick, by Rudy Behlmer, Modern Library, 2000.
- The Genius of the System: Hollywood Filmmaking in the Studio Era by Thomas Schatz, University of Minnesota Press, 2010.
- American Cinema/American Culture by John Belton, McGraw-Hill Humanities, 2008.

    Note: The School has partnered with the Regent Bookstore to have textbooks available for purchase for all students, including distance students. Items may be ordered using the secured online catalog found at www.regentbookstore.net.

- Daily access to the Internet and email

- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) version 2007 or later.

- The latest version of a web browser compatible with Blackboard and media players. For assistance, visit the links provided in the Helpful Resources section of the course in Blackboard or contact IT Helpdesk via their website, phone at 757-352-4076, or email helpdesk@regent.edu.

- Additional materials (e.g., PowerPoint files, quizzes, media, and the like) may be provided via Blackboard. Students are responsible for the information and materials distributed in class and on Blackboard (see "Use of Blackboard" below for more information).

- Understand and adhere to the Regent Honor Code found in the Student Handbook. A persistent link can also be found in Blackboard's "RU Resources" tab.

Recommended Course Materials:

- Texts TBD
- Other resources such as writing style guides, Blackboard tutorials, University policies, IT Helpdesk, and information may be accessed via the "RU" and "Helpful Resources" tabs in Blackboard as well as in the Helpful Resources section of this course.

USE OF BLACKBOARD

Blackboard will be used to aid communication and delivery of content as the semester progresses. We may also utilize the Discussion Board to extend our in-class discussions. Participation in Blackboard does not supplant course requirements for attendance or class participation. Therefore, while access to and use of Blackboard is required for this course, it should not be seen as a surrogate for class attendance or other course requirements. Also, please keep the following in mind:

- All discussion posts should be scholarly in nature and respectful of colleagues.

- Students are expected to check the Announcements section of Blackboard each week beginning one week before the start of the course.

- Students must keep their e-mail address current in Genisys in order to receive communications from Blackboard and the instructor. Students are expected to check their Regent e-mail daily to ensure timely receipt of messages from the professor.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION
Participation within Blackboard is required in order to complete this course.

> **Note**: International students should consult the Office of International Student Services before registering for a Distance or Modular course.

In addition, the following attendance requirement applies to this course:
All students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to work. Any student who misses a class is expected to follow up with fellow students for notes and possible direction from the instructor. Students are expected to follow the syllabus to know which information or assignments might be missed. Assignments are due on the date in the syllabus regardless of class attendance.

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for Regent University to suspend normal operations. During this time, Regent University may opt to continue delivery of traditional classroom instruction using the Blackboard Course Management System. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor the course Blackboard site in the event of campus closure.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Unless otherwise instructed, all assignments for this course must be submitted via the "Assignment Link" found in Blackboard. All files should be submitted using the following naming convention:

YourName_AssignmentName (e.g. John Smith_Essay 1)

- Papers should be in MS Word format (.docx) compliant with the **MLA** writing style guide.

- Scripts should be in standard screenplay format.

Unless otherwise stated in Blackboard, no assignment will be accepted if submitted via any method other than Blackboard. Assignments are due no later 9:00am the day of class. It is

recommended that students give themselves a buffer of time before the deadline to allow for trouble-shooting should your upload attempt fail. Students should look at the assignment submission page to verify that the submission was successful.

Late Assignments
All assignments will be graded DOWN one letter grade for each day they are late.

NOTE: Technical difficulties when submitting to Blackboard will not be accepted unless documented by the IT Help Desk. The IT Help Desk is your first point of contact for problems with Blackboard. Deadline extensions will be allowed only when a system issue occurring on Blackboard's side is documented by Regent University IT department.

METHOD OF EVALUATION
The final grade for the course will reflect mastery of course content and quality of thought as expressed in:

1) Film Reviews (4). Students shall write and submit a critical review of a film chosen by the instructor from an approved list. Reviews are to be no less than 2 pages, double-spaced and must address: significance of the film and how the film "fits" into the culture of the time period.
2) Short Essay Submission – Students shall write a short essay about a person from the studio era, from an approved list. The essay must be no less than 10 pages, double-spaced. Students must address: the person's significance to American cinema, successes, failures and personal history.
3) Discussion Board – Students shall participate in a number of discussion boards as per the course schedule.
4) Final Project Idea Submission – Students shall submit to the discussion board no less than 3 ideas for their final project. Students will present these ideas and be prepared to answer questions as to the efficacy of the idea. By the end of class students will have one chosen idea from which to proceed.
5) Final Project Outline – Students shall submit a written outline of their project, length shall be appropriate for the idea.
6) Final Project First Draft – Students shall submit a first draft of their final project.
7) Final Project – Students shall submit their final project along with a 5 minute presentation to the class of their findings.

The following grading scale will be used:

Grade	Percentage Score	Quality Points
A	96-100	4.00
A-	93-95	3.67
B+	90-92	3.33
B	85-89	3.00
B-	81-84	2.67
C+	78-80	2.33
C	75-77	2.00
C-	71-75	1.67
D+	68-70	1.33
D	65-68	1.00
D-	60-65	0.07
F	0-59	0.00

SECTION 3 – SCHEDULE AND EVALUATION

COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule below includes the due dates for all assignments in this course. It is recommended that you place this Course Schedule in a convenient place and refer to it each week of the course. You need to follow it closely, as late assignments are subject to a grade reduction.

Week 1
Introduction & Review of Syllabus

Week 2:
Formation of the Hollywood Studio System

Week 3:
Style at MGM and Warner Bros.

Week 4:
Decline of the Producer System/Unit Production

Week 5:
Stars, Genre and the Golden Age

Week 6:
Film Screening and Discussion

Week 7:
The Golden Age

Week 8:
Daavid O'Selznick

Week 9:
The War Years and the Boom

Week 10:
Postwar Changes to the Industry

Week 11:
Transformation to the New Hollywood

Week 12:
Film Screening

Week 13:
Culture and the Industry

Week 14:
Final Project Presentations

Week 15:
Final Project Presentations

SECTION 4 – PROGRAM GOALS

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS MISSION STATEMENT
To prepare emerging and established Christian leaders to inspire, enrich and transform the media, the arts, and the academy through excellence and innovation in scholarship and practice.

PROGRAM GOALS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF CINEMA-TELEVISION.

   MFA in Cinema-Television:

   1. **Christian Worldview** Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate & apply the Christian faith & biblical principles to the study & practices of mediated communication.

   2. **Professional Artistry** Students will articulate their personal artistic "voice" and mastery of the production process as evidenced by excellence in their creative works.

   3. **Techniques** *(within majors)*:

      o **Producing**: Students will demonstrate mastery of cinema and television producing, which includes the development of leadership and stewardship skills within a spiritual, social, cultural, and global framework.

      o **Directing**: Students will demonstrate mastery of cinema and television directing, in storytelling, pre-visualization, production design, casting & performance, cinematography, audio, post-production, and the application of Christian leadership skills to the directing process.

SECTION 5 – UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students should become familiar with *all* university policies as outlined in the Student Handbook including:

- Disability services (<u>Note</u>: Requests for accommodation must first be submitted through Disability Services).

- Regent Honor Code (as an academic and Christian community, Regent University takes seriously the call for integrity and penalizes breaches of academic integrity.)

- Withdrawing from a course or the University

- Discipline policies

A link to the Student Handbook can also be found in Blackboard's "RU Resources" tab along with links to University Library, Student Services, University Bookstore, academic writing assistance resources, and more.

Blackboard's "Help" tab provides additional resources including:

- Blackboard tutorials

- IT Help Desk contact information

STUDENT COURSE EVALUATION

Students have the opportunity to provide feedback throughout the course through e-mail, telephone, and on-campus appointments. Near the end of the course, students will complete an anonymous online course evaluation form. Since the results contribute to improving course design and presentation, it is important that students be honest and constructive in their evaluations. Students will receive an e-mail reminder from the University when it is time to complete these evaluations. Please take time to provide this input. **Students can access the online evaluation system at:**

http://eval.regent.edu/regent/survey/students.cfm

If you have questions about the online evaluation please contact **evaluation@regent.edu**.

This syllabus is subject to change without notice.

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