

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 – (800) 251-4299
Eng. 370 – Summer 2019

Course Number & Name: ENG370 Explorations in Visual Literature: The Art of Alfred Hitchcock

Credit Hours: 4 Quarter Hours **Method of Delivery:** Online

Course Description: A study of the films of Alfred Hitchcock as viewed through the lens of modern world literature. Topics will include an exploration of the director as auteur, literary interpretations of his films, the prevalent and recurring themes in his films, and the influences in his life that impacted his body of work. Weekly film viewings; weekly quizzes; response papers; online discussion forums; research paper.

Prerequisite(s): ENG 117 – Composition, or equivalent.

Text:

Spoto, Donald. *The Art of Alfred Hitchcock: Fifty Years of His Motion Pictures*. NY: Random House, 1992. Print.

Required Materials:

The Lodger – free on YouTube

Rebecca – free on YouTube

Dial M for Murder – free on PopcornFlix

The Man Who Knew Too Much – available for rent online on Vudu.com for just \$3.99.

<https://www.vudu.com/content/movies/details/The-Man-Who-Knew-Too-Much/5081>

Lifeboat – copy on reserve in Midstate College library. Check other local libraries as well.

DVD collection: *Psycho*, *Rear Window*, *North by Northwest*, *Vertigo*, and *The Birds*

Topics:

1. Development of Hitchcock from filmmaker to auteur
2. Hitchcock's purpose and style
3. Hitchcock's motifs
4. Hitchcock's themes
5. Hitchcock's filmmaking tools

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Develop an appreciation of Hitchcock as a film auteur.
2. Analyze and critique Hitchcock's purpose and style.
3. Analyze and critique Hitchcock's motifs.
4. Analyze and critique Hitchcock's themes.
5. Recognize Hitchcock's filmmaking tools.
6. Recognize and interpret the parallels between written and visual literature.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of filmmaking as an art form.

Midstate Grading scale:

90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
0 - 59	F

Midstate Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original

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source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of an electronic resource which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success:

The Office of Student Success is available to students seeking tutoring for individual classes or who need assistance with writing assignments. Information is also available on test taking techniques, how to take notes, developing good study skills, etc. Contact Student Success in Room 110 (in person); (309) 692-4092, extension 1100 (phone); studentsuccess@midstate.edu (email).

Instructor Information:

Dr. Steve Bortolotti
Office: 226
692-4092 - ext. 2260
sbortolotti@midstate.edu

Policies and Procedures:

1. There will be viewing and reading assignments every week accompanied by weekly quizzes. Keeping up with the reading is key to student success in the class. Electronic quizzes are automated and will open and close on Monday mornings. Quizzes cannot be made up.
2. A term paper is required. Students must follow Midstate College's writing standards for essay writing:
 - Title page and outline
 - Source page with documented sources in correct APA styles
 - 1" margins
 - Times New Roman 12 font
 - Black font
 - Page headers starting on page 2
1. Midstate College is currently an APA institution. Students must show a proficiency in APA documentation and citation skills. There is no APA overview or review in this course's lessons, and so students are therefore responsible for their own APA skills.
2. If students know they will miss a deadline, they should plan on asking for an extension in advance. Submission areas close promptly at 8:00 on Monday mornings, unless otherwise noted.
3. Absences do not exempt students from submitting work in on time. The instructor reserves the right to negotiate late submissions with students on a one-on-one basis.
4. If students **miss multiple weeks, no matter what the excuse is, they should not expect to be able to make-up assignments.**
5. It is the student's responsibility to keep all copies of papers and written assignments turned in for a grade. If a paper or other assignment is lost by the student or the instructor, the student is responsible for providing the instructor with another copy of the paper or assignment. Copies of the papers written in this course should be kept until the student receives his or her final grade for the quarter.

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6. Students suspected of plagiarizing will be subject to the penalties outlined in the *Midstate College Student Handbook*.
7. **Regarding written work in the class:**
 - Drop boxes will be shut after the due dates.
 - The instructor reserves the right to negotiate to accept late work - in special circumstances - on a one-on-one student basis.
 - The instructor will accept assignments, but only after student contacts the instructor first to get clearance. Late papers will be subject to late points.
8. **Methods of evaluating student performance:**
 - 22 Weekly Quizzes on films, lectures, and readings @ 10 points each = 220 points
 - 4 Discussion Forums @ 10 points each = 40 points
 - 3 Response Papers @ 25 points each = 75 points
 - Term Paper = 150 points
 - 15 Mystery Points

Grading Scale:

Total number of points: 500 points

500 – 450 = A

449 – 400 = B

399 – 350 = C

349 – 300 = D

299 – = F

Weekly Lessons

Week 1: The Genesis of Genius

Topic: Hitchcock biography and background in film

Readings in Spoto: pp. 5-10

View: *The Lodger*

Quiz on lecture and readings

Quiz on film

Week 2: The Birth of the Auteur

Topics: Film as visual representation of literature

Readings in Spoto: pp. 82-86

View: *Rebecca* (1940)

Quiz on lecture and readings

Quiz on film

Discussion Forum #1

Week 3: Moral Education

Topics: Protagonists and their moral dilemmas

Readings in Spoto: pp. 129-134

View: *Lifeboat* (1943)

Quiz on lecture and readings

Quiz on film

Response Paper #1

Week 4: Enter the Blonde

Topics: Hitchcock fixation with blondes begin

Readings in Spoto: pp. 208-213

View: *Dial M for Murder* (1954)

Quiz on lecture and readings

Quiz on film

Discussion Forum #2

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Week 5: The Innocent Everyman

Topics: Recurring motifs in Hitchcock films
Readings in Spoto: pp.214-224
View: *Rear Window* (1954)
Quiz on lecture and readings
Quiz on film

Week 6: Voyeurism as Art

Topics: The moviegoer as voyeur
Readings in Spoto: pp. 240-254
View: *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956)
Quiz on lecture and readings
Quiz on film
Response Paper #2
Discussion Forum #3

Week 7: Obsession

Topics: Art imitates life
Readings in Spoto: pp. 264-300
View: *Vertigo* (1958)
Quiz on lecture and readings
Quiz on film
Discussion Forum #4

Week 8: Wrongly Accused

Topics: Recurring motifs in Hitchcock films
Readings in Spoto: pp. 301-311
View: *North by Northwest* (1959)
Quiz on lecture and readings
Quiz on film

Week 9: Killing the Psyche

Topics: Hitchcock's dark visions begin
Readings in Spoto: pp. 313-328
View: *Psycho* (1961)
Quiz on lecture and readings
Quiz on film
Response Paper #3

Week 10: Clawing and Scratching

Topics: Man vs. Nature
Readings in Spoto: pp. 328-338
328-338View: *The Birds* (1963)
Quiz on lecture and readings
Quiz on film

Week 11: Research Paper

Week 12: Research Paper

Motifs: taxidermy, birds, blondes, iconic landmarks, safe havens, everyman, religion, police, wrongly accused, assumption of responsibility, falls from high places, tennis, stairs, McGuffin.