Term: Spring 2018
Course Title: Political Studies Thru Film

Course Prefix: POSC  Course No.: 3313
Department of Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences
Course Prefix: POSC  Course No.: 3313
College of Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences
Section No.: P01

Instructor Name: Angelia Y Jones, PhD
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U.S. Postal Address:
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P.O. Box 519
Mail Stop 2203
Prairie View, TX 77446

Office Hours: TR 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
MWF By Appointment

Virtual Office Hours: Thurs. 9:00AM – 2:00PM. I will monitor my email ayjones@pvamu.edu during this virtual office hour time to respond promptly. Do NOT send messages to me via eCourses. Instead, send all Email to ayjones@pvamu.edu which I check regularly.

Course Location: (CRN 25425) Woolfolk 202 (Smart Room)
Class Meeting Days & Times: TR – 3:30pm – 4:50

Catalog Description: This course critically analyzes films that portray concepts and issues that are fundamental to the study of political science, including freedom and equality, power imbalances, revolution and war, and political structures and processes.

Prerequisites: POSC 1113 or POSC 1123
Co-requisites: None
Required Text: A Short Guide to Writing about Film, 9th edition, 2014, by Timothy Corrigan. Longman-Addison Wesley, ISBN: 9780321965240. The text can be found at the Bookstore, online vendors such as Amazon or eBay, or direct from the publisher at http://www.pearsonhighered.com/educator/product/Short-Guide-to-Writing-about-Film-A/9780321965240.page

Recommended Text/Readings:

Access to Learning Resources:
PVAMU Library:
phone: (936) 261-1500;
web: https://www.pvamu.edu/library/

University Bookstore:
phone: (936) 261-1991;
web: http://www.bkstr.com/prairieviewamunivstore/home

Course Goals or Overview: The goal of this course is to stimulate students’ thinking and understanding of important political, social and economic forces and challenges in the United States and the world through the study of film.

Course Outcomes/Objectives
At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze how film can inform us about world political, social, and historical relations.
2. Demonstrate cinematic literacy by evaluating films as “texts”.
3. Utilize film to synthesize and understand complex political issues.
4. Analyze conflicting views of politics as seen through cross-national movie viewing.
5. Recognize patterns and trends in politics as revealed in cinema.
6. Identify how film can distort and misrepresent politics.

A Word of Warning
Many of the films that we will be viewing contain images and language that some people may find offensive. You must watch each of these films with the class. Alternate films will not be available. Please check the list of films below and be certain that you are able and willing to view these. I do not want anyone in the class to feel that they are being pressured into viewing or hearing things that offend their personal or religious principles. If you believe that this will be a serious problem for you, please withdraw from the class. Neither I nor the university is any way responsible for your reaction to the films in this course, nor do the films themselves necessarily reflect the views of either the instructor or the university.

Attendance
Please don’t skip class meetings. Your attendance and participation are an essential part of your grade (20%), and more importantly, they are a determining factor in what you really “get out of this course”. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness will not be tolerated. Students are allotted four absences and each additional absence will result in the reduction of a letter grade from your final grade (i.e. a student earning an A in the course but with five absences will effectively have a B).

Cell phones should be switched to silent upon entering the classroom. Also, text messaging will not be permitted and any student observed text messaging during the class and film viewing may be asked to leave for the day.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods
This course will utilize the following instruments to determine students’ grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes:

- **Exams** – There will be two multiple choice/short answer tests, one at the midterm and one at the end of the semester. Each exam will comprise 15% of the final grade for the course. The exams will include questions from the text, articles linked on eCourses, lectures/discussions, and any supplemental material assigned.

- **Film Critiques** – Students are required to write three film critiques over films shown in the course. Each critique will comprise 10% of the final course grade. Each critique should be between 3-4 pages and address political issues as well as the methodology used by the filmmaker.

- **Writing Assignment** – Students are required to complete an 8-10 page paper that will account for 20% of the final course grade. The paper will compare and contrast three films in your choice of “category”. These may include films in that category that we haven’t actually watched in class (drawn from the “Other Recommended Films” listing), as long as I approve them in advance. More details will be announced later in the course.

The following grading matrix indicates the relative weights of each instrument used to determine student grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Value (points)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>75 pts</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Critiques (3 critiques at 10% each)</td>
<td>150 pts (3 critiques- 50 pts ea.)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>500 points</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade determination: A=90-100   B=80-89   C=70-79   D=60-69   F=Below 60

Course Procedures

Exam Policy: Exams must be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook and description below). I will not grade your exam unless all these policies are followed.
Submission of Writing Assignment Policy: No late assignments will be taken under any circumstances. All papers must have a title, but not a separate title/cover page. All written assignments must be typed, in 12-point font, double-spaced. Assignments sent via email, slipped under my office door or stuck in my campus mailbox will NOT be accepted for grading. I will not grade a written assignment unless all these policies are followed. Papers are graded according to the quality of the following four criteria: 1) content, 2) organization, 3) quality of writing, and 4) quality of research sources and reference citation formats. If you notice a grade is not posted on eCourses after seven days, it is incumbent on you to notify the instructor. Let’s resolve issues quickly!

Political Science Program Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic crime and the Political Science Program has a strict, rigorous enforcement policy for students who commit plagiarism. In general, plagiarism is using another person’s words, statistics, and/or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism, which is formally defined in the University Rules and Procedures section of this syllabus, can come in many forms, such as directly quoting a source without quotation marks, directly quoting a source without giving a reference citation, paraphrasing a source without giving a reference citation and so forth. It is incumbent on students to seek help from the instructor or other University resources to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in their work. Any student caught committing ANY type of plagiarism in a Political Science course will receive one OR MORE of the following punishments, depending on the severity of the offense and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct:
1. Grade Penalty (an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course);
2. Letter of Reprimand
3. Probation
4. Suspension
5. Dismissal from Academic Program
6. Expulsion from the university.

Students must consult the University’s Code of Conduct for other forms of academic dishonesty and the attendant punishments. Any instance of academic dishonesty on a final draft of something will result in failure of that assignment.

Writing Assignment Due TBA
Students are required to complete an 8-10 page paper that will account for 20% of the final course grade. The paper will compare and contrast three films in your choice of “category”. These may include films in that category that we haven’t actually watched in class (drawn from the “Other Recommended Films” listing), as long as I approve them in advance. More details will be announced later in the course.

The paper must be based on scholarly research and cite at least three (3) reliable, quality references from the media and/or the Internet within the body of the paper using the parenthetical citation style (see below for link). One of the citations MUST come from the class textbook (-10 point penalty points if this is not done), and NONE may be from ANY encyclopedia, including Wikipedia (-10 point penalty if this is done). For full credit, you must have three sources and at least three in-text citations (in the body of the paper). You must also have a properly formatted works cited section at the end of the paper. The paper’s in-text citations AND works cited section must conform to the Chicago format found in the examples from this website: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html Be sure to click on the Author-Date tab!!

a. Students must be very careful when they examine internet websites and provide at minimum the author/publisher, date published or accessed, and the title of the article or website. The URL should also be available.

Your report should be at least eight pages of text (not counting the bibliography/works cited). All papers need a title, but not a separate title/cover page, which is a waste of paper. The report must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font. Assignments that are sent via email, slipped under my office door or stuck in my campus mailbox will not be accepted for grading. Students cannot turn in another student’s assignment. Only assignments turned in via eCourses will be accepted for grading. Papers are graded according to the following four criteria: 1) content; 2) organization; 3) quality of writing; and 4) quality of research sources and reference citation formats.

Film Critiques Due TBA
Students are required to write three film critiques over films shown in the course. Each critique will comprise 10% of the final course grade. Each critique should be between 3-4 pages and address political issues as well as the methodology used by the filmmaker. You must cite the Corrigan text/assigned article(s) at least three times,
including chapter and page number(s) (if the text). In writing your critique, maintain a critical distance. We are less concerned with how much you liked (or disliked) the movie, but rather with the film’s meaning and relationship to a specified set of issues and problems.

Electronic Communication: Notes and other course materials may be posted on eCourses, which is available at http://ecourses.pvamu.edu. You are expected to use this website as a resource for the class. The University also maintains an email account for you. Periodically, I may send you class notices or other information. I expect you to check your Prairie View A&M email account at least once a day. If you have problems accessing your account, please call (936) 261-2525. Not having access to your Panther Email is not an excuse for missing important information. I rarely check Ecourses messages, so my PV email — ayjones@pvamu.edu — is by far the best way to communicate with me.

Make-up Policy: You will only be allowed to make up an exam or assignment if you have a valid, documented excuse. Valid excuses include illness, school or business trips, or family crises. Beyond documented valid excuses, there will be no makeup assignments or late assignments accepted. If granted a make-up, you have a period of seven (7) calendar days to schedule a make-up assignment or exam. After that point, the grade becomes a zero. You must provide written documentation for why you need to make up an assignment (such as a note from a university official, doctor, police officer or coach). Student athletes must notify me BEFORE they attend an event to represent the school and MUST be proactive in getting their assignments completed. Make up exams may be an essay/short answer test or a modified version of the original exam. Extra credit of any form cannot be made up.

Grade Groveling Policy: Students concerned about their grades should endeavor to attend all class sessions and complete all work to the best of their ability. Students earn high grades, based on demonstrating mastery of the subject matter and not based on what they want or need for their overall GPA. Therefore, no grade groveling will be entertained and no “do-overs” allowed.

Formatting Documents: Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you’re using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format. All writing assignments must use acceptable citation style and document all sources.

Course Content: Topics and Readings

16 WEEK CALENDAR

Week One: 01/15/18 – 01/21/18
Chapter (s): Course Introduction
Assignment (s): Course Syllabus; introductory videos on eCourses
MLK Holiday: no class Mon. 1/18; class begins Wed. 1/20

Week Two: 01/22/18 – 01/28/18
Writing About the Movies
Beginning to Think, Preparing to Watch, and Starting to Write
Film Terms and Topics for Film Analysis and Writing
Viewing: Film technique videos on YouTube and Vimeo
Chapter (s): Chapters 1, 2, 3
Assignment (s): NA

Week Three: 01/29/18 – 02/04/18
Six Approaches to Writing about Film
What Makes a Film Political
Propaganda and Film
The Documentary
Chapter (s): Chapter 4

Week Four: 02/05/18 – 02/11/18
War and Film
Chapter (s): Chapter 5
Viewing: TBA
Assignment (s): NA
Other Recommended Films:

Week Five: 02/12/18 – 02/18/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: TBA
Assignment (s): NA
Social Class
Race and Gender
Chapter 6

Week Six: 02/19/18 – 02/25/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: TBA
Assignment (s): NA
Social Class (continued)
Race and Gender (continued)
Chapter 7
Assigned articles on eCourses TBA

Week Seven: 02/26/18 – 03/04/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: Assigned articles on eCourses TBA
Assignment (s): NA
Law and Crime Films

Week Eight: 03/05/18 – 03/11/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: Assigned articles on eCourses TBA
Assignment (s): NA
HUAC and the Hollywood Blacklist

Spring Break: 03/12/18-03/18/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: Assigned articles on eCourses TBA
Assignment (s): NA
Spring Break (No Class)

Week Nine: 03/12/18 – 03/18/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: Assigned articles on eCourses TBA
Assignment (s): NA
Sex, Violence, and Censorship

Week Ten: 03/19/18 – 03/25/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: Assigned articles on eCourses TBA
Assignment (s): NA
The Cold War and The Atomic Age
Colonialism, Imperialism, and Political Violence

Week Eleven: 03/26/18-04/01/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: Assigned articles on eCourses TBA
Assignment (s): NA
The Cold War and The Atomic Age (continued)
Colonialism, Imperialism, and Political Violence (continued)

Week Twelve: 04/02/18 – 04/08/18
Chapter (s):
Viewing: Assigned articles on eCourses TBA
Z (1969) 127 min.
Assignment(s): NA
Other Recommended Films: NA

**Week Thirteen: 04/09/18 – 04/15/2018**

- **Chapter(s):** Mass Media and Consumer Culture
- **Viewing:** Contemporary Political Satire
- **Assignment(s):** Assigned articles on eCourses

**Week Fourteen: 04/16/18 – 04/22/2018**

- **Chapter(s):** Honesty, Democracy, and the State
- **Viewing:** Dystopia and Postmodernism
- **Assignment(s):** Assigned articles on eCourses

**Week Fifteen: 04/23/18 – 04/29/2018**

- **Chapter(s):** Review and Final Exam Period
- **Assignment(s):** Check Final Exam schedule and eCourses for our exam due date

In addition, the following links are a wealth of information about films:

- Internet Movie Database [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)
- All Movie [www.allmovie.com](http://www.allmovie.com)
- Film Site [www.filmsite.org](http://www.filmsite.org)
- American Film Institute [www.afi.com](http://www.afi.com)

**University Rules and Procedures**

**Disability statement (See Student Handbook):** Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator. Please contact 936-261-3583/85 if you have questions.

**Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook):** You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

**Forms of academic dishonesty:**

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else’s words, ideas, or data as one’s own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one’s own work also constitutes plagiarism.

**Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook):** The University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes
with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

**Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook):** Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Attendance Policy:** Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student’s course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of “F”. Attendance will be taken starting on day one of class however absences are accumulated starting week 2.

**YOU CANNOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE MORE THAN NINE (9) MINUTES LATE!** If you are TEN (10) or more minutes late, by the instructor’s watch, you cannot come to class that day. If you try to violate this rule, you will be expelled from class for that day. Failure to comply with these rules will mean a five-point reduction in your overall class average for each infraction.

**Student Academic Appeals Process:** Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor’s assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Please see me first if you feel that you have been treated unfairly. I will gladly work with you. If we are unable to reach a satisfactory conclusion, then you may contact my supervisor in WOOL 102 or 936-261-3200.

**Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses**

**Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:**
- Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9
- Internet provider with SLIP or PPP
- 64MB RAM
- 15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Microphone and recording software
- Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0
- -56K modem or network access
- -8X or greater CD-ROM
- -Hard drive with 40MB available space
- -Sound card w/speakers
- -Keyboard & mouse
- -8X or greater CD
- -15” monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- -Sound card w/speakers
- -Keyboard & mouse
- -Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0
- -Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:
  - Sending and receiving email
  - Proficiency in Microsoft Word
  - Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

**Netiquette (online etiquette):** students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use Chicago standards to reference sources.

**Technical Support:** Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

**Communication Expectations and Standards:** All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours. You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following my receipt of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.
In your email communication, please notify me of your NAME, Course, and Course Time, so that I can quickly respond. Do not send me messages through Ecourses! **The most effective way to communicate with me is through my PVAMU email account:** ayjones@pvamu.edu