

Identity in American Cinema

XIDS-2002

Fall 2020 Section 128 2 Credits 08/12/2020 to 12/05/2020 Modified 08/11/2020

Description

Selected topics and themes posing a question addressed using the tools and assumptions of a variety of disciplines.

Requisites

Prerequisites:

Corequisites:

Contact Information

Duane A Theobald

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Office: TLC 1201B (inside the University Writing Center)

Phone: 678-839-5312

Office Hours

By Appointment

Email me to schedule a meeting (face-to-face or virtually)

Meeting Times

Monday, Wednesday, 8:50 AM to 9:40 AM, Humanities 134

- Group A will attend face-to-face on Monday
- Group B will attend face-to-face on Wednesday

Materials

Various Films

List to be provided during first week & in CourseDen

Articles

Provided via CourseDen

Outcomes

XIDS 2002 is a course designed to help students get excited about learning at West Georgia. In addition, it is our hope that this course helps you succeed academically as well as personally and socially during this semester and beyond. The fundamental focus of the class is to provide an understanding of the basic structure of critical thinking and of academic disciplines in order to increase learning

in the university classroom. Students are required to attend class and to interact with their instructors and classmates. While students must take responsibility for their own learning, the course attempts to support and enhance that responsibility by making the class a learning community within the University.

As a result of participating in this course, students should be able to:

1. adapt written and oral communication to specific rhetorical purposes and audiences.
2. recognize and begin to implement the skills necessary to become life-long, active learners through the exploration of an academic topic that focuses on a contemporary and/or enduring topic, question, or problem.
3. identify, evaluate, and use information, appropriate to a specific purpose.

✓ Evaluation

Criteria

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Discussion Boards	30%		
Quizzes	20%		
FYS Lab	15%		
One-on-One Meeting	10%		
Podcast (End-of-Course Assignment)	25%		

Breakdown

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	
B	80-89.5	
C	70-79.5	
D	60-69.5	
F	below 60	

☰ Assignments

Discussion Boards

Part of engaging with any text is exploring it & considering your reactions to it. Discussion boards will serve as a place where you will discuss various topics, film-related & otherwise, and present your thoughts, reactions, etc. in **either a written or video response**. I recognize that this might seem daunting at first, particularly the video response, but we'll discuss this at length before you get started.

Quizzes

Nearly every class has them, but never fear! If you've watched the film & taken notes, you'll be just fine. I don't create quizzes to trip you up. I just want to gauge whether or not you've watched the film for that week.

FYS Lab

This is an assignment that ALL students enrolled in a first-year seminar are completing throughout the semester. See the instructions for this ongoing assignment in CourseDen & do let me know if you have questions at any point throughout the semester.

One-on-One Meeting

You will be required to schedule a one-on-one meeting with me during the course of the semester. This meeting will need to be held during the scheduled week for one-on-ones (located in the Schedule below). You are responsible for scheduling your meeting via a Doodle poll that I'll send out closer to the week of meetings. Also, given our socially-distanced environment here at UWG, we'll be doing these via Google Meet.

Podcast (End-of-Course Assignment)

This will serve as the culminating assignment for the semester. What you're being asked to do is consider everything you've learned & done this semester & put it into action. You'll choose one film (NOT one we've viewed for class) and craft a podcast that examines how identity is presented in the film, why it is presented in such a way (provide textual examples), and if the film is or is not applicable to viewers today. Essentially, consider why the film would or would not help shape an individual's identity.

Don't stress about this too much in the early days. You'll get an assignment sheet, an example podcast to consider, etc. to consider as you approach this.

Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Week #1 8/12	Syllabus & Expectations	For this class period only, we will operate on the following schedule: **Group A will attend class from 8:50-9:10 a.m. **Group B will attend class from 9:20-9:40 a.m. **Complete Syllabus Quiz by Monday, 8/17 at 7 a.m.
Week #2 8/17 & 8/19	Discussion: What is Identity?/What is Identity in Cinema?	**Complete Introductions: Tell Us About Yourself DB by 8/20 at 6 p.m.
Week #3 8/24 & 8/26	Note Taking: General & for Film/Practice ("Inner Workings")	**Read <i>Boyz n the Hood</i> article by next week!
Week #4 8/31 & 9/2	Boyz Article Discussion (Lead-in to Boyz Film Discussion)	**Complete Check-In: How's It Going? DB by Thursday, 9/3 at 6 p.m. **Make sure you've completed <i>Boyz n the Hood</i> Quiz by Wednesday, 9/9 at 7 a.m.
Week #5 9/9	Boyz n the Hood: Open Discussion & Scene Analysis	**Complete Character Portrayals in <i>Boyz n the Hood</i> DB by Thursday, 9/10 at 6 p.m. **Read <i>The Shining</i> article for next week!
Week #6 9/14 & 9/16	The Shining: Open Discussion & Scene Analysis	**Complete Reaction to Klimpton's Article (<i>The Shining</i>) DB by Thursday, 9/17 at 6 p.m. **Make sure you've completed <i>Eighth Grade</i> Quiz by Monday, 9/21 at 7 a.m.
Week #7 9/21 & 9/23	Eighth Grade: Open Discussion & Scene Analysis	**Complete Reflecting on Your Middle School Days (<i>Eighth Grade</i>) DB by Thursday, 9/24 at 6 p.m.
Week #8 9/28 & 9/30	Campus Resources: Discussion and Q&A	**Complete Campus Resources @ UWG DB by Thursday, 10/1 at 6 p.m. **Make sure you've completed <i>Get Out</i> Quiz by Monday, 10/5 at 7 a.m.

When	Topic	Notes
Week #9 10/5 & 10/7	Get Out: Open Discussion & Scene Analysis	**Complete Race in <i>Get Out</i> DB by Thursday, 10/8 at 6 p.m. **Make sure you've signed-up for a One-on-One Meeting!
Week #10 10/12- 10/16	One-on-One Meetings	**Be sure to attend your virtual One-on-One Meeting with me! **Take time this week to go ahead & watch <i>The Godfather</i> (it's a bit long...) **Make sure you've completed <i>The Godfather Quiz</i> by Monday, 10/19 at 7 a.m.
Week #11 10/19 & 10/21	The Godfather: Open Discussion	**Read <i>The Godfather</i> article for next week! **Begin looking over Podcast Assignment Guidelines
Week #12 10/26 & 10/28	The Godfather: Scene Analysis	**Complete Haskell & the Role of Women in <i>The Godfather</i> DB by Thursday, 10/29 at 6 p.m. **Read <i>Lady Bird</i> article for next week!
Week #13 11/2 & 11/4	Lady Bird: Open Discussion & Scene Analysis	**Complete Self-Discovery in <i>Lady Bird</i> DB by Thursday, 11/5 **Make sure you've completed <i>Booksmart Quiz</i> by Monday, 11/9 at 7 a.m.
Week #14 11/9 & 11/11	Booksmart: Open Discussion & Scene Analysis	**Send along your podcast film selection to me by Friday, 11/12 (emailed to my UWG email!) **Begin mapping out how you want to structure and, ultimately, record your podcast.
Week #15 11/16 & 11/18	Podcast Assignment Q&A; Wrap-Up Semester Discussion	**Be working on your Podcasts! **Have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving Break!
Finals Week 11/30-12/4	Final Podcast Due!	<u>**Final Podcast due to CourseDen dropbox by Wednesday, 12/2 at noon</u>

* Course Policies and Resources

Screening Policy

This is a film-focused course, so the viewings are as important as the readings. No viewing listed on the syllabus is optional, though I may offer other suggested viewings throughout the semester. For these reasons, you will likely need Netflix, Hulu, etc. You may also access these films through other means. Group screenings are a great way to experience films, so consider setting these up in the library or in your own dorms or homes. Remember: films are our primary sources, so take good notes. I strongly recommend viewing films more than once, whenever possible

Content Advisory

Art and entertainment are filled with the many complicated elements of human life. This means that many films contain violent and sexual content, nudity, all manner of potentially offensive themes, and profanity. You should be aware that your continued enrollment in this course requires that you consume such content with maturity and a scholarly perspective. No viewing assignment will be waived on the basis of moral objection.

Punctuality & Consideration for Others

Like most instructors, I expect you to participate professionally in this course, which means considering the effect that your behavior will have on your classmates and me as your instructor.

For face-to-face class meetings:

- Please come to class on time, and do not leave early. If you must come to class late, enter as quietly as possible to avoid

disrupting class.

- Turn off or silence cell phones, and do not use them in class unless otherwise directed to do so.
- Please be sensitive of the perspectives of your classmates. Vigorous discussions about relevant, contemporary issues may arise; when this happens, I expect you to show respect to one another and not belittle the opinions of others. I completely recognize that you may disagree with me and with one another, but please do so in a respectful manner.
- Turn in assignments on time. As a general rule, late assignments result in the deduction of one letter grade per day; therefore, after an assignment is ten (10) days late, there is no need to turn in the assignment. *I do understand, however, that life happens. In this case, simply communicate with me, and we'll work something out.*

Extra Credit

Extra credit will be offered at the discretion of the instructor. These opportunities to earn bonus points will be offered at various points in the semester to the class as a whole. The instructor will not make special arrangements for individuals to earn bonus points.

Institutional Policies

Academic Support

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/accessibility-services.php).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success \(http://www.westga.edu/cas/\)](http://www.westga.edu/cas/) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu.

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center \(https://www.westga.edu/writing/\)](https://www.westga.edu/writing/) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu.

Online Courses

UWG takes students' privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the [UWG Online \(https://uwgonline.westga.edu/\)](https://uwgonline.westga.edu/) site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the [Online/Off-Campus Student Guide \(http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php\)](http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php).

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the [UWG Cares \(http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/\)](http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/) site. [Online counseling \(https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php) is also available for online students.

Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing.

Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook \(https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php\)](https://www.westga.edu/administration/vpsa/handbook-code-of-conduct.php).

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance: http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information# (http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance: <https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php> (<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>)

Mental Health Support

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGcares](#).

ELL Resources

If you are a student having difficulty with English language skills, and / or U.S. culture is not your home culture, specialized resources are available to help you succeed. Please visit the [E.L.L. resource page](#) for more information.

COVID-19

Proctored Exams/Online Instruction: Students should be aware and plan ahead for the possibility of having to complete all courses and/or exams online or in a proctored environment. This means talking with your instructors about what minimum technical requirements (software and hardware) will be required should your class move online or a student's personal needs dictate. This also includes making plans for internet access at whatever location participation may occur.

Virtual or in-person proctored exams, if your instructor should require them, may result in an additional cost to the student. Please discuss these details with your instructor or see the information provided here.

Face Coverings: Effective July 15, 2020, University System of Georgia institutions, including the University of West Georgia, will

require all faculty, staff, students, and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use will be in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing.

Face coverings are not required in campus outdoor settings where social distancing requirements are met. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area.

Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons.

Student FAQs: For more information about UWG COVID-19 guidance for students visit the [Student FAQ webpage](https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php) (<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/health/coronavirus-info/return-to-campus/students-faq-return-to-campus.php>).

Additional Items
