



Syllabus: SCAC LIT 289

Course Information

Course Title: Literature and Film
Course Prefix/Number: LIT 2891
Semester: Fall 2025
Class Days/Times: Online
Credit Hours: 3.0

Instructor Information

Name: Robert Meyer
Phone/Voice Mail: It is best to contact me via e-mail to arrange a time to speak on the phone; leave a call-back number and I will call you ASAP.
E-mail: Canvas email or rmeyer@tocc.edu
Office location: N/A
Office hours: TBA

Course Description

This course is designed to offer students an introduction to film and its relationship to literature. The first half of the semester will focus on indigenous films and issues, and the second half will look at a range of other films. Different aspects of film-making, such as narrative, mise-en-scene, cinematography, acting, and sound will be explored. Themes of indigenous beliefs, culture, and everyday life in general will be explored as they emerge from the films and texts under discussion. Discussions will frequently deal with Apache history and culture.

Catalog Description: Criticism of films' dramatic forms, elements and genres. Includes development of film as an art form, comparative approaches to literature and film, performed drama, critical analysis, and film production personnel.

Note: There are a couple of ways to access the films in this course:

1) First, log into your @tocc.edu email account at <http://www.gmail.com>.

* Once you're logged into your TOCC Gmail account, then visit this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14VLGdA9q4GVo10sETA2j1FOUIRLEyzMS?usp=sharing>

* From there, you should be able to stream the videos. If you get an error stating, "You need permission", make sure you are first logged in with your TOCC Gmail account, then try the protected link again.

Remember that the films can only be viewed for this course. Any other use of them would be considered illegal.

2) They will also be put on reserve on the SCAC campus and a place will be set up for viewing there.

For help with **Technical Issues**, you can also search for tech support articles and file help tickets at <https://scac.freshdesk.com>. You can also email tech@apachecollege.org or call/text 928-413-1968.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

After completion of the course students, with a focus on film and its corresponding literature, will be able to:

- Demonstrate a full and accurate understanding of a film: its content, organizational structure, visual strategies, and other aspects of film-making that achieve a director's purpose.
- Demonstrate how a written text is related to a particular film.
- Demonstrate a general understanding of the film-making process.

Course Structure:

During this course students will:

- A) Engage in Discussions: Informal writing about the films, readings, and film technique with responses to the readings and films.
- B) Write a Midterm Exam: This exam will treat the films and related readings of the first half of the semester, consisting of essay-type questions
- C) Write a Final Exam: This exam will treat the films and related readings of the second half of the semester, consisting of essay-type questions

Course Outline:

This course is tentatively organized as follows:

First half of the semester:

Weeks 1 and 2 --*Smoke Signals*

Weeks 3 and 4 – *Winter in the Blood*

Week 5 – *The Rider*
 Week 6 – *Once Were Warriors*
 Week 7 – *The Whale Rider*
 Week 8 -- Midterm Exam
Second Half of the semester:
 Week 9 – *Reel Injun*
 Week 10 – *Blazing Saddles*
 Week 11 -- *The Joy Luck Club*
 Week 12 -- *Paradise Now*
 Week 13 -- *Do the Right Thing*
 Week 14 -- *Fly Away Home*
 Week 15 -- --Final Exam

Each week in the semester constitutes a Canvas “module”.
 Go to the course home page in Canvas for details.

Also go to **Weekly modules** for the course in Canvas and also see note in “Course Outline” below.

Course Learning Materials and Textbook Information

Barsam and Monahan; *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film*; 7th ed.
 ISBN 978-0-393-88583-5
 Welch, *Winter in the Blood* Penguin ISBN 9780143105220
 Other materials supplied by instructor

**ACCOUNTABILITY:
 Policies and Expectations**

Evaluation and Grading & Assignments:

Your final grade is broken down according to these categories and weight:

Category	Weight
Discussions, Assignments, and other Work	60%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

Always check Total score in your Canvas Grades for where you stand in the course:

90 and above is an A
 80 - 89 is a B

70 - 79 is a C

60 - 69 is a D; Under 60 is Failing

If at any time you have questions about your grade or are concerned about the quality of your work, please contact me. Again, you can check your updated grade in Canvas.

Participation and Attendance Policy

Online Attendance

Since this is an online course that does not have a regularly scheduled meeting time, I expect each of you to be checking our online classroom, discussion board, and e-mail on a daily basis.

All important updates will be made online and communicated via e-mail. In a face-to-face course, you go to class on a regular basis with direct contact with your instructor and other students. An online course like this one requires a special self-discipline in order to be successful. So, set up a regular schedule in which you are at that computer working on this course. I would recommend planning at least 10 - 15 hours a week devoted to this course. Communicate regularly with me via email or phone. Stay in touch (online!) with other students in the course.

In addition, in order to do well in this class, you need to do the following:

- Read carefully **all** materials and links posted in the weekly modules
- Be sure to set aside at least two -three hours to view and analyze each movie.
- Participate in class discussions, activities, and assignments.
- Complete all reading and discussions on time. Points may be deducted for late work.
- Follow instructions, guidelines and advice for completing assignments.

Sometimes problems arise that could affect your performance in this class. **Please contact me promptly if:**

- you are confused about the requirements of an assignment.
- you are having technical problems
- you cannot complete an assignment on time because of an unexpected event or problem.

If you fall behind in the course, I will expect to have a conversation with you in order to figure out how you might catch up or deal with any specific issues.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the act of using another person's or group's words, ideas, or data as one's own. To avoid plagiarizing, a student must give credit through citations, footnotes, or proper quotation structure when he/she uses the following:

- Another person's idea, opinion, or theory
- Any pieces of information that are not common knowledge such as facts, statistics, graphs or drawings
- Quotations and/or paraphrases of another person's actual spoken or written words, including lectures, classroom discussions, and handouts

- Another person's data, solutions, or calculations without permission and/or proper citation of the source

Ignorance of plagiarism is not a legitimate defense against a charge of plagiarism. It is the responsibility of a college student to know what constitutes plagiarism. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism should be discussed with your instructor. And beware of AI sites. Copying or poorly paraphrasing from them is fairly easy to detect as your plagiarism.

Academic Integrity:

Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by San Carlos Apache College. Students may consult the SCAC Student Handbook sections on student code of conduct, on scholastic ethics and on the grade appeal procedure.

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All work done for this class must be your own, or the original work of your group. While you may discuss assignments with other class members, the final written project must clearly be original. You may use work from books and other materials if it is properly cited.

Instructor Withdrawals

Students who have missed four consecutive classes (or the equivalent), or have not submitted any assignments nor taken any quizzes by the 45th day census report, due on [date of 45th day found in Academic Calendar on SCAC website], are assumed NOT to be participating in the class and may be withdrawn at the faculty member's discretion.

Student Withdrawals

Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first 2/3 of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself by [withdrawal deadline date found in Academic Calendar on SCAC website] if you do not expect to complete the class; otherwise, you may receive an "F" grade.

Special Withdrawals (Y) Grade

The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale, with documentation, for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason.

RESPECT

Equal Access Statement/Disability Accommodations

San Carlos Apache College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to ensure an equal educational opportunity. This process includes self-identifying as a student with a disability, providing supporting documentation of their disability, and being approved for services through the Disability Resources Office (DRO). It is the student's responsibility to make known to their instructor(s) the student's specific needs within the context of each class in order to receive appropriate accommodations. We will work together in order to develop an accommodation plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements. For more information or to request academic accommodations, please contact: Anthony Osborn, TOCC Disabilities Resource Coordinator, aosborn@tocc.edu, or 520-383-0033 for additional information and assistance.

Title IX

San Carlos Apache College encourages each student to have the knowledge and skills to be an active bystander who intervenes when anyone is observed or being harassed or endangered by sexual violence. Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced or witnessed any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.

Conduct: Bias, Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment

San Carlos Apache College faculty and staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus environment as a core value. Harassment based on age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital

status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status will not be tolerated.

RESILIENCE

Incomplete Policy

Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The student must be in compliance with the attendance policy.
2. The student must have unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.

Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth week of the following semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

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OPENNESS

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See tentative course outline above.

Faculty/ Student Communication

Instructor Response Time

On most assignments and correspondence, I try to respond to you within 24 to 48 hours. Responding to exam submissions may take up to a week. Scores and grades are entered automatically in the “Grades” menu in Canvas.

Participation and Attendance Policy

Online Attendance

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College Expectations

Please be advised that all students, including dual credit students, are subject to the same policies and standards regarding attendance, submission of late work, participation, conduct, and academic honesty as outlined in this syllabus. By enrolling in this course, students understand that mature subject matter may be covered and that course content may be intellectually and emotionally challenging.

In complying with FERPA, I cannot and will not discuss any matters regarding any student's performance or standing in this class with friends, parents or family members. All students are encouraged to contact me whenever they have questions or concerns about this class.

WISDOM

SCAC General Education Learning Outcomes

Apache Wisdom

Learning from the teachings carried on from Apache elders and other community leaders, students will appreciate their unique history, language, and culture as a source of strength for their personal, family, academic, and career aspirations.

Critical Thinking

Approach critical issues, problems, or questions using creativity and deductive reasoning, evaluating evidence, acknowledging diverse perspectives and contexts, and synthesizing one's own viewpoint into ongoing conversations and debates.

Communication

Effectively express ideas orally and in writing. Good communication includes understanding one's audience, organizing one's thoughts, acknowledging and integrating outside sources, using the most recent technology, and following the accepted writing and citation conventions of the particular discipline.

Environmental Literacy

Students will understand their connection to social, cultural, physical, and global environments. Students will consider and evaluate strategies for cultural, community and global sustainability.

Apache Cultural Component: San Carlos Apache College is in the process of developing culturally relevant curriculum and coursework in Apache history, culture, and language.

Student and community feedback will guide this process. All SCAC instructors will find ways to incorporate culturally relevant topics and materials into their courses as appropriate.

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.