MUS 109: Great Film Music
(Fall 2014)

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Office: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines music composed for film as seen in the works of some of the movie industry’s leading composers. The course is designed for the general student population - i.e. no formal musical training and/or a background in film/television etc. is a prerequisite for the course. However, students will be expected to apply themselves to the art of listening skills, learn some basic music and film terminology and participate fully in class discussions. Besides lectures, the course revolves around listening to and analyzing film music. Attending class is pertinent to passing this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVE
The object of the course is to examine the role of music in movies, drawing mainly upon American movies from the 1930s to present day. Through lectures, selective excerpts, and studying entire films in detail, the course will help develop an awareness of the impact and intent of music and its relation to film. We will examine the ways music complements and influences our interpretation of film images and characterizations, how music’s aural experience affects a viewer’s perception, the artistry involved in effectively scoring a film, and how to recognize its manipulative potential as well as its expressive power. By the end of this course students should have acquired a basic working knowledge of musical and film terminology so that they can communicate ideas and insights in a comprehensible fashion.

COURSE TEXT
There is no mandatory text for this course. In lieu of this, students will be given class handouts and board notes that will provide sufficient information on the material we will cover. In addition to the handouts, students are expected to take notes on lectures and participate during class. Watching movies and clips is an important part of this course, so internet access is required for the course, both for research and for Youtube clips. In addition to the internet, the UVIC library has a large collection of movies for viewing, as well as Pic a Flic video on Cook Street.

COURSE EVALUATION
The breakdown of grades will be based upon the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Comment cards/Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (during exam period)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Final marks will be assigned as percentages, which correspond to letter grades as follows:

- A+ = 90 - 100%
- A  = 85 - 89%
- A- = 80 - 84%
- B+ = 77 - 79%
- B  = 73 - 76%
- B- = 70 - 72%
- C+ = 65 - 69%
- C  = 60 - 64%
- D  = 50 - 59%
- F  = 0 - 49% (Uh Oh!)

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND CELL PHONES:
You are welcome to use laptop computers, tablets etc. in class if you wish. However, please refrain from bringing cell phones or other hand-held devices to class due to their disruptive nature. The classroom is not a place for conducting social affairs.

RCSD (Resource Center for Students with a Disability)
I am happy and willing to assist those students involved in the RCSD. If you are a student involved with this program, please be sure you are familiar with their information and requirements expected of students to ensure all necessary provisions and procedures are met. Information can be found at: <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/index.html>
ASSIGNMENTS

Submission of assignments is treated very strictly. All assignments are due no later than the date set by the instructor and are to be handed in during the first 15 minutes of class. After this they will be considered late. You will be given sufficient time to complete each assignment; therefore, assignments handed in after the time it is due (i.e. after the class in which it was to be submitted; slid under my office door; emailed to me, handed in to the main office, etc.), will be considered as late, and not be accepted - so please observe due dates and budget your time accordingly. (Early submission of assignments is always welcome).

If you are having trouble with an assignment, please come to me for help before the due date, not the morning of or after the due date which it is due, as it will still be considered late. Not handing in an assignment on time, and then approaching me afterwards is not acceptable and it will still be considered as late. Losing the assignment, or forgetting it at home and wanting to submit it later in the day (either by hand or sending it by email) is also not a valid reason and won’t be accepted.

Any extenuating circumstances must be discussed with the instructor and again before the assignment due date. In the end, the decision whether or not to accept an assignment or extension (if requested) is still up to the discretion of the instructor.

ATTENDANCE

Class is from 1:00 - @ 2:20 PM (it is school policy to allow @ a 10 minute transit time between classes).

Attendance in this course is pertinent to passing the course, as missed movies and/or film clips may be difficult to find. As stated in the university calendar: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014/GRAD/FARe/Atte.html>

Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled...
An instructor may refuse a student admission to a lecture or laboratory because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work, including assignments, may be refused permission to write the final examination in a course...

Students who miss more than 50% of the classes will receive an automatic fail and not be permitted to write the final exam nor write a course evaluation. Each student is expected to participate fully in discussions. Repeated unexcused absences will result in a drop in your letter grade. Passive attendance - i.e. present in body but sleeping, or not paying attention or participating in discussion - is considered an absence and the instructor reserves the right to treat it as such for grading purposes. Excessive tardiness will also result in the lowering of your grade.

If a student is absent due to illness, they must contact me at that time (i.e. not days or weeks after the missed class/classes). It only takes a moment to send an email.

Absences can be excused for the following reasons only:
* attendance at an unofficial University-sponsored event (athletic game, conference, etc.)
* serious illness, which must be documented by a doctor’s letter
* documented family crisis/emergency

In the case of university-related field trips and sports events, the instructor must be informed of the absence in advance of the event or the absence will not be excused.

Please note that students are responsible for making up all work missed due to any absence and are responsible for all material covered in each class. This includes picking up assignments, class handouts etc. if absent. Missing classes is no excuse for late assignments or missed tests.

As mentioned, students are expected to attend all classes. Do not book anything that conflicts with scheduled class hours (e.g. appointments, another course, etc.). If, for unavoidable reasons, you do wind up being late for class, please enter quietly as to not disrupt the class.
CHEATING

Students should be aware that cheating or plagiarism can result in dismissal. Any clear instance of copying or cheating will result in an automatic ‘F’ for the assignment or test in question. A second such occurrence may result in a more severe penalty.

Cheating on Assignments, Tests and Examinations

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- copying the answers or other work of another person
- sharing information or answers when doing take-home assignments, tests or examinations except where the instructor has authorized collaborative work
- having in an examination or test any materials or equipment other than those authorized by the examiners
- accessing unauthorized information when doing take-home assignments, tests or examinations
- impersonating a student on an examination or test, or being assigned the results of such impersonation
- accessing or attempting to access examinations or tests before it is permitted to do so

Students found communicating with one another in any way or having unauthorized books, papers, notes or electronic devices in their possession during a test or examination will be considered to be in violation of this policy.

It is a violation to help others or attempt to help others to engage in any of the conduct described above.

PLAGIARISM

A student commits plagiarism when he or she:

- submits the work of another person in whole or in part as original work
- gives inadequate attribution to an author or creator whose work is incorporated into the student’s work, including failing to indicate clearly (through accepted practices within the discipline, such as footnotes, internal references and the crediting of all verbatim passages through indentations of longer passages or the use of quotation marks) the inclusion of another individual’s work
- paraphrases material from a source without sufficient acknowledgement as described above

The university reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software programs to detect plagiarism in essays, term papers and other work.

More information on Academic Integrity can be found at:
<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014-09/GRAD/FARe/PoAcI.html>

EXTENSIONS

Should you need an extension, please feel free to come and speak to me about it BEFORE the due date. Extensions are only granted for reasons of serious illness (not colds, etc.) or on compassionate grounds (this does not include having lots of work in other courses). For serious medical reasons, a medical certificate must be provided at the time the extension is requested. If you are having trouble getting started on an assignment, do not hesitate to make use of my office hours. I am happy to help you!

MISSING EXAMS

Make-up exams usually will not be provided. They are generally given only in extreme medical emergencies or severe personal crises and must be supported by proper documentation. A student who misses an exam is not entitled to a makeup exam. Any extenuating circumstances must be discussed with the instructor BEFORE the date of the test, and in the end, the decision is still up to the discretion of the instructor. A missed quiz will not be given a makeup quiz.

N.B. It is the student’s responsibility to know the correct time and location of exams. Do not book anything that conflicts with exams (e.g. flights; appointments, etc.). Please check the exam schedules carefully - if you forget to come, sleep in, mix this course up with another course, mix up the time, or generally miss the test, you will receive a failing grade for the exam. A make-up exam will not be provided.

For information on Academic Concessions such as deferred status due to serious illness, accident or family affliction please go to: http://www.registrar.uvic.ca/undergrad/records/documents/def.html
UNDERGRADUATE GRADING SCALE

Passing Grades:
A+, A, A-
Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.

B+, B, B-
Very good, good and solid performance. Earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student’s full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A grade of B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

C+, C
Satisfactory or minimally satisfactory work; indicates some deficiencies in knowledge, understanding or techniques of the subject matter. Earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.

D
Marginal work; demonstrates only a superficial grasp of the subject matter and/or minimal participation in class activities

Failing Grades:
F Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements
N Did not write examination or otherwise complete course requirements by the end of term or session. No supplemental. This grade is intended to be final

More information on the undergraduate grading scale can be found at: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014-09/FACS/Unln/UARe/Grad.html>

A general note - this course covers a lot of material, and you must learn it thoroughly. University is not like high school. In university you are considered a young adult - a mature, self-motivated individual with high standards and responsible, disciplined study habits. The main goal of study should be to not merely complete an assignment, but to fully comprehend and skillfully apply the material being studied. Do not leave assignments until the last minute. You are responsible for knowing all the material from your handouts and material discussed in class - please come to class prepared. Managing your time effectively is an important factor in doing well in university. The onus is on you to take responsibility for your success.

It is my intent that everyone do well in this course. I encourage you to ask questions in class or afterwards, to let me know if something is not clear, and to feel free to consult with me if you would like assistance. Please do not feel embarrassed if you do not understand something. All questions are welcomed and will be answered in a respectful manner. In addition, please don’t hesitate to email me if you have questions - I’m happy and willing to help out via cyberspace :-) 

It is the sole responsibility of the student to make known one’s concerns well ahead of the end of the semester in order that those needs can be addressed in a timely manner, rather than leaving those concerns to a time when they cannot be adequately addressed by the instructor. Please take the initiative to convey your concerns and insights, either in class for the mutual benefit of your peers, or privately in person or by email with me. Remember, it is difficult for instructors to give help if they don’t know you are having trouble with the material.

I look forward to working with you this semester!
Tentative Timeline

Please note that the following timeline is not rigid. We may, at times, get ahead or behind.

Week 1  (Thurs., Sept. 4)
Topics:  Welcome and introduction  
Handouts (terminology, instruments, film music techniques)  
Diegetic vs non-diegetic (use Top Gun; War Horse)  
Masking  
Cue list  
Britten's Guide to the Orchestra (@ 20 minutes)

Week 2  (Mon., Sept. 8)
Topics:  Classic film scores  
leitmotifs and John Williams  
MOVIE #1

Week 3  (Mon., Sept. 15)
Topics:  finish Movie #1  
Franz Waxman  
MOVIE #2  
cue list assg due

Week 4  (Mon., Sept. 22)
Topics:  Disney and feature films  
Hollywood's Greatest Year  
assg # 1 due (Sept. 25)

Week 5  (Mon., Sept. 29)
Topics:  MOVIE #3  
Bernard Herrmann

Week 6  (Mon., Oct. 6)
Topics:  MOVIE #4  
Eras & Foreign Settings  
assg #2 due (Oct. 6)

Week 7  Monday, Oct. 13 - NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
Thurs., Oct. 16 - con't Eras and Foreign Settings

Week 8  (Mon., Oct. 20)
Topics:  Movies and Pre-composed Music  
Adapted Film Scores  
Symphonic Scores  
assg #3 due (Oct. 20)
Week 9  (Mon., Oct. 27)
Topics: Symphonic Scores  (Oct. 27)

Midterm Exam  (Oct. 30)  * on all material up to and including Oct. 27

Week 10  (Mon., Nov. 3)
Topics: MOvie #5
T-Bone Burnett
assg #4 due (Nov. 3)

Week 11  (Mon., Nov. 10 - 12 Monday - Wednesday = Reading Break  (no class on Monday)

Topics: Thurs., Nov. 13
MOVIE #6
assg #5 due

Week 12  (Mon., Nov. 17)
Topics: finish movie #6
New Millenium
Randy & Thomas Newman, Hans Zimmer, Danny Elfman, Alexandre Desplat

Week 13  (Mon., Nov. 24)
Topics: New Millenium - con’t
Michael Giocchino
MOVIE #7
assg #6 due (Nov. 27)

Week 14  (Mon., Dec. 1st) - last class of the term

finish movie #7
discuss final exam

Exam Period  (Monday, Dec. 8 - Monday, Dec. 22)  Final Exam

N.B.
It is the student’s responsibility to know the correct time and location of exams. Do not book anything that conflicts with exams (e.g. flights; appointments, etc.). Please check the exam schedules carefully - if you forget to come, sleep in, mix this course up with another course, mix up the time, or generally miss the test, you will receive a failing grade for the exam. A make-up exam will not be provided.