

LMC 2500 A: Introduction to Film
Fall 2026

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Office Hours: M/W 2:00–3:30p.m | Tu/Thu 2:00–3:30 p.m. virtually | By appointment
Class Location: Skiles 002
Class Time: M/W 11:00am – 12:15pm
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: ENGL 1102



“To be an artist means never to avert one’s eyes.” Akira Kurosawa, director, Rashomon, Seven Samurai, etc. (from his autobiography Something Like an Autobiography).

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students’ broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Catalog

Introduces film techniques and vocabulary in an historical and cultural context. Written texts are supplemented by viewings of specific shots, scenes, and films.

Course Description

Ever wondered how movies create magic? How do filmmakers use light, movement, and sound to make us laugh, cry, or see the world anew? This course takes you on a journey through the language and art of film, exploring how screenwriters, directors, cinematographers, and editors shape meaning on screen. No prior experience is required. You'll learn the foundations of visual storytelling and film analysis, discovering how camera angles, editing, and music work together to create emotion and atmosphere. Along the way, you'll build your ability to think critically, write with confidence, and watch films not just as entertainment, but as powerful reflections of culture, history, and human imagination.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Analyze how filmmakers use visual and sound techniques to construct meaning, applying core film vocabulary and formal concepts accurately.
- Compare films across different cultures and historical periods, recognizing how cinema reflects and responds to the societies that produce it.
- Interpret the relationship between cinematic form and broader social, historical, and cultural contexts.
- Communicate ideas clearly through written and oral work that integrates close analysis and evidence drawn from course films and readings.
- Apply course concepts through structured creative and analytical projects that demonstrate independent thinking and cinematic literacy.

Required Texts and Reading Materials

- **Film Appreciation** by Yelizaveta Moss & Candice Wilson (OER PDF).
- **Moving Pictures** by Russell Sharman (OER PDF).
- **Additional reading materials** - will be available via Canvas and/or a Cloud Drive Folder.

Recommended Texts

- *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*, 10th Edition, by Timothy Corrigan.
 - ISBN10: 1478652071 | ISBN13: 978-1478652076

Technology Requirements

- Computer/Laptop with a reliable internet connection.
- Pen/Pencil/Notebook or Tablet/Stylus for in-class notes.
- Software to complete assignments: MS Word/PowerPoint, Google Docs, Adobe, etc.
- Computer Storage: access to reliable local and/or cloud-based storage for backing up your work.
- Access to streaming platforms for some films.

Grading Breakdown

ASSIGNMENT OR ACTIVITY	POINTS	DATE
Small Group Discussions (7)	7	See Canvas
Screening Responses (13)	13	See Canvas
Film Journal (2)	10	See Canvas
Analytical Essay (1)	10	See Canvas
Quizzes (3, Online)	20	See Canvas
Presentation (1)	20	See Canvas
Final Project (1)	20	See Canvas
TOTAL	100	See Canvas

- Small Group Discussions: reflections on selected in-class small-group discussions.
- Screening Responses: student response to a prompt about the assigned film screening.
- Film Journals: two reflective assignments connecting viewing experience, course concepts, and film analysis.
- Analytical Essay: analytical essay requiring a sustained, thesis-driven argument grounded in film studies concepts.
- Quiz: on course materials.
- Presentation: group and/or individual on an assigned film.
- Final Project: a semester-long research or creative project developed through a proposal, draft, and final submission:
 - Research Paper on a film of the student's choice
 - Research Presentation on a film of the students' choice
 - Research Video Essay on a film of the students' choice
 - A Short original screenplay
 - A Short original film
 - Other Original Film Art/Project with instructor approval

Grading Scale

GRADE	POINTS	DESCRIPTION
A	90 - 100	Excellent, 4 quality points per credit hour
B	80 – 89	Good, 3 quality points per credit hour
C	70 – 79	Satisfactory, 2 quality points per credit hour
D	60 – 69	Passing, 1 quality point per credit hour
F	0 – 59	Failure, 0 quality points per credit hour

Extra Credit Opportunities

Any extra credit opportunities, if offered, will be discussed in class. Details, expectations, and eligibility will be communicated at that time.

Course Policies, Expectations and Guidelines

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. [Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the [student Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Attendance, Participation, and Engagement

Regular attendance and active participation are required in this course. Students are permitted three absences without penalty. Beginning with the fourth absence, two points will be deducted from the final course grade for each additional absence. Three instances of tardiness or early departure count as one absence. Institute-approved and documented excused absences will be handled according to Georgia Tech policy.

Please also review the Institute [expectations and restrictions related to attendance](#), including information about excused absences.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

Collaborative study is expected and encouraged. You may work with classmates on homework preparation, screenings, readings, research conversations, and other out-of-class study unless an assignment states otherwise. Collaboration does not create a shared submission unless the assignment explicitly permits individual or paired work. Any individually submitted work must be your own original work created for this course.

Students may **not** use Generative AI without the instructor's explicit permission. Unauthorized use of AI tools will be treated as a violation of academic integrity.

Communication Policy

Email: I will respond to emails as soon as possible, with a standard 48-hour turnaround time. Weekend communication is welcome with the same 48-hour standard response time.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Late work is subject to the penalties stated in the individual assignment instructions. Make-up quizzes or alternative arrangements may be provided for documented illness, approved Institute activities, or religious observances.

Recording: **No recording** (audio, video, or photographic) is permitted without explicit permission from the instructor. This protects the privacy and intellectual property of all class participants.

Religious Observances

Georgia Tech recognizes the diversity of its student body and respects students' religious practices. Students who wish to be absent from class for religious observances must provide **two (2) weeks advance notice** in writing via email. Alternative arrangements for missed work will be made on a case-by-case basis. More information about approved exceptions can be found [here](#).

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Student Well-Being

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being (student-resource-guide.gatech.edu).

PLEASE NOTE:

This syllabus is subject to change. Changes, if any, will be announced in class. Students will be held responsible for all changes.

Syllabus Revision 1.0 (any changes to the syllabus will result in a new revision number, e.g., from 1.0 to 1.1, etc.)

August 24th, 2026