

Film Sound

Last Updated: Sat, 01/03/2026

Course prefix: LMC

Course number: 3253

Section: B

CRN

35297

Instructor first name: Kristi

Instructor last name: McKim

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

“The ear goes more toward the within, the eye toward the outer,” claims French filmmaker Robert Bresson, renowned for his sophisticated cinematic soundscapes. Though we commonly speak of *seeing* films, we less often talk about *hearing* them. Listening is something we *do* more than *practice*, and this Film Sound course helps us hear the movies by attuning our senses to cinema's fuller acoustic richness. Through listening to films and mapping sound patterns, exceptions, and exemplars, this class combines the history of film sound (as dialogue, voice, music, effects, and silence) with theories of how and why sound moves us and makes meanings, within films by prominent sound-focused filmmakers (such as Bresson, Jane Campion, the Coen brothers, Alfonso Cuarón, Michael Haneke, Spike Lee, Terrence Malick, Jordan Peele, Kelly Reichardt, Martin Scorsese) and examples from a variety of films such as *M*, *Le Million*, *Modern Times*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Playtime*, *Star Wars*, *Blue*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Lives of Others*, *Arrival*, *45 Years*, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *Passing*, *Drive My Car*, *Memoria*, *Zone of Interest*. In addition to written assessments and experiential projects (e.g., sound walks), students will create projects that remix, transform, and expand film history.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

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 students 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