

# Media III Course Syllabus

## FALL SEMESTER 2018

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Oscar Jamaal

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**Department:** Literary Media & Communication

**Meeting Times:** Tuesday 2:10 - 3:25pm; Wednesday 3:30 - 4:50pm; Thursday 3:30 - 4:50pm

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### Overview:

In Media III, we examine principles of storytelling from various technical and creative roles such as writer, director, cinematographer and editor. No matter what role a filmmaker plays in the making of a movie, he/she is responsible for enhancing the script through the use of specific storytelling techniques that manipulate an audience's mood and understanding of the world.

By focusing on the art and science of visual storytelling, students will be using specific examples from past movies to uncover filmmaking tricks that will be applied to their projects. We will also critically analyze how American cultural and social conflicts are portrayed and worked out in popular film. By watching, discussing, and writing about these films, we will examine how motion pictures create a window into modern American society.

### Course goals:

The goals of this course are to:

- learn how to critically analyze and evaluate films as cultural texts.
- Use popular American films to understand competing perspectives on 20th century American history, culture, and society.
- learn story structure, character development, script format, and camera movement
- learn the intricacies involved in making a film, from the conception of the story to the final edit.

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### Screenings:

A portion of this class involves watching and critically analyzing films. All in-class films are rated PG, PG-13, or R-rated TV-MA (for mature language). Signing the syllabus is considered as permission for your child to screen these films in class.

### Film Reviews:

Students are required to write 2 major film reviews each nine weeks

(1 1/2 - 2 pages each) throughout the semester based on films viewed OUTSIDE OF CLASS. The films are selected from the Library of Congress's *American Film Institute's* list of Top 100 American Films. These reviews count as test grades. At the beginning of each six weeks, students receive a list of films from which to choose. All the films for outside class viewing during the first six weeks are rated G (films released prior to 1980). The second nine weeks list (films released from 1980-2000) includes some "R" rated titles. If a student chooses an R-rated film, he/she **MUST TURN IN A VIEWING PERMISSION SLIP** signed by a parent/guardian (It does not matter if you are 18 years old). The 3rd nine weeks will involve writing reviews on films released since 2000. Film reviews will be graded on how well you critically analyze how a movie works and how it examines larger cultural and social issues in American history and society.

### Grading Procedures: Classroom Standards

Video projects 50%

- ★ Product consumption commercial
- ★ Re-Create a moment in history
- ★ Video tour of Historical park, statue or monument

Written Assignments 40%

- ★ Notes
- ★ Film Summary
- ★ Writing Exercise
- ★ Test ( film review OUT OF CLASS)

Labs/Instructional exercises 10%

- ★ lighting exercises
  - ★ camera exercises
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- ★ Class participation
- ★ Set-up/Break down equipment challenge (timed)

### Professionalism Standards

These points are deducted (per occurrence) under the following categories:

- Timelines (2pts)
    - Tardy
    - Unexcused absence
    - Late assignments
  - Respectfulness (2pts)
    - Cell phones going off
    - Disrupting class
    - Eating/Drinking in class
    - Improper equipment care
    - Inappropriate behavior
  - Preparation (2pts)
    - Bringing required materials
  - Attentiveness (2pts)
    - Sleeping
    - Being of task
  - Compliance (10pts)
    - Cheating/Plagiarism
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