The Teacher in Film
05:300:317:A1
SUMMER, 2021
3 Credits

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Location: zoom.rutgers.edu (online)
Office Hours: BY ARRANGEMENT using facetime to 732-221-3899. If you don’t have facetime, please email me and we will find a different venue.
Prerequisites or other limitations: NONE

Mode of Instruction:  
___ Lecture
___ Seminar
___ Hybrid
___ Online
___ Other
Permission required:  
X_ No
__ Yes

This course is suggested for EdSS minors and for persons wishing to fulfill SAS Core Requirements is either of the following areas:
• Contemporary Challenges
• Areas of Inquiry

Faculty Syllabus Statement for Disability Services:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the registration form (https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration).

1 Check 1:
LEARNING GOALS:

- Understanding the genre of the Teacher Film--its unique characteristics as well as the characteristics it shares with genre films focusing on other careers.
- Classifying the essential elements that make up the genre of the teacher film: malcontent teacher, first day of school, and teacher versus administration for example.
- Developing a template by which to view these teacher films and others in the future.
- Conducting interviews as a way to begin discussing others’ views of these films.
- Writing a Motif Paper on one motif that appears in at least five of the core films for the course as a way to discover the myths and truths in this body of work.
- Completing rating questionnaires for seven core films you will view in this course as a way to see how you as an individual fall within a larger group of viewers.
- Selecting an 8th film to add to the corpus of core teacher films for this course.

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Focuses on films in which a teacher is the central character. Students will study these films as a cinematic art form, as positive inspirational role models for students considering a teaching career, and as unrealistic examples that shape the public's view concerning teaching.

OTHER DESCRIPTION OF COURSE PURPOSES, CONTEXT, METHODS, ETC:

Everything you need to read or view is on our SAKAI Site except for the seven core films for the course.

Students must rent the seven core films for the course. Because of copyright issues, your professor cannot provide entire films. In addition, each student must rent again the film that he/she will be showing to the interview subjects.

The seven core films for this class are Blackboard Jungle (1955), To Sir with Love (1967), Up the Down Staircase (1967), Stand and Deliver (1988), Dead Poets Society (1989), Dangerous Minds (1995), and Freedom Writers (2007). In addition to these films, I include in the Resource section of the course, short segments of other films including The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1969), Conrack (1974), School of Rock (2003), and Bad Teacher (2011).

Below are links to sites that allow you to rent (for a small fee) the movies as downloads that can be opened and viewed on your computer. I only include these links to provide you with one pretty reliable way to view each of the seven films. One caveat: you will need to have a

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2 The Learning Goals should include (based on alignment tables each licensure program made for CAEP): NJ Professional Standards for Teachers (per CAEP for initial licensure programs); Specialty Area Standards (per CAEP for initial and Advanced Licensure); and the six CAEP competencies for Advanced Programs; as well as objectives from other sources.
copy of one of the films for a period longer than the rental time. Later in the semester, you will be showing one of the seven teacher films to three different people and then conduct an interview about the film with each person. These interviews will provide you with the material needed for the assignment: Interview Paper.

Blackboard Jungle: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0047885/

To Sir with Love: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0062376/

Stand and Deliver: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0094027/

Dead Poet's Society: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097165/

Dangerous Minds: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0112792/

Up the Down Staircase: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0062425/

Freedom Writers: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0463998/

ASSIGNMENTS³:

Quizzes:

Each quiz opens on the date indicated. There are six quizzes total; each quiz is worth 3 points each. You are permitted to retake the quiz as many times as you wish. SAKAI will use your highest score as your score in the Grade Book.

The quizzes will stay opened until June 24th. After June 24, 2021, all quizzes will be closed and you will no longer have access to them.

Journal Entries:

Journal entries are due on the dates stated on SAKAI. You are expected to submit each of all four journals in a timely way. If, after you receive my response to your work, you choose to modify your response, you may make a second submission. Under no circumstances, can you submit all the journal entries at the end of the semester!!!!! Journals 1 and 2 are five points each.

The Third Journal entry focuses on the idea of shot-by-shot and requires a longer response from you. It is worth 10 points. Journal 4 (in which you overview a narrative you would like to see be made into a feature film) is also worth 10 points.

Motif Paper/ Project:

³ Including exams, papers etc. and ALL Key assignments submitted via Live Text for CAEP accreditation.
The first project/paper focuses on one of the motifs that remain consistent from teacher film to teacher film. In this paper, each student will trace one of the motifs (such as first day or school, teacher versus administration, or deciding to stay in the job despite its problems) across at least three of the films assigned to the course. The Motif Paper/Project is due on June 15, 2021.

The Interview Paper:

The Interview Project focuses on each student's interviewing three subjects to find out their responses to a teacher film you will show them. Each student will select the movie to be shown (choosing from one of movies viewed for this course), select three interview subjects from different generations and with different careers, schedule a time to show each subject the film and to interview him or her, transcribe the interview, categorize the information, and write the paper. You will use the interview guide (found in the resources section of SAKAI) to help shape the actual interview, read papers from previous semesters, and watch videos of students people interviewing their subjects. The Interview Paper is due on June 15, 2021.

The Teacher Film Rating Scale:

During the last week of the course, you will be asked to complete a teacher film rating questionnaire. Rating scales are due on June 25, 2021.

GRADING POLICY:

- **Journal entries** -- 2 journals 5 points each ................................................................. 10 points
- **Two Expanded Journals** ................................................................. 20 points
- **Quizzes** -- 6 total, each worth 3 points................................................................. 18 points
- **Motifs Paper/Project** .................................................................................. 25 points
- **Interview Paper** ......................................................................................... 20 points
- **Rating Films Questionnaire** ................................................................. 5 points
- **Eighth Teacher Film** .................................................................................. 2 points

**TOTAL:** ............................................................................................................. 100 points

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

Academic integrity: Make sure that you provide proper citations for all materials that you use in all written work. Any violation of academic honesty is a serious offense and is therefore subject to an appropriate penalty. Refer to [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/) for a full explanation of policies.

WEB SITE:

Below is a link that students enrolled in the course can use to access the website. This link will not work if you are not enrolled in the course.
### COURSE SCHEDULE

**PLEASE NOTE:** Information in the table below represents the categories of information found on the course Sakai site. FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION you must look at the entry in the Sakai Site tab bar showing complete information for each course session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session # &amp; Date</th>
<th>Topic, Assignments &amp; Readings</th>
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| **SESSION 01. Tues June 1: ONLINE** | Topic: Course overview and orientation  
Assignments: View 8 lectures; Read course guidelines  
Readings: Corrigan & White The Film Experience (CW) Preface & CH 1                                                                                             |
| **SESSION 02. Wed June 2: ONLINE** | Topic: Why these 7 films  
Assignments: View 2 lectures; Take CH 1 Quiz; Read Examples of Journal 1, Submitted by Students in Prior Semesters; Submit Journal 1  
Readings: Lists of popular teacher movies; Representations of teachers in 60 years of films; Articles about the genre of teacher movies; CW CH 10                                          |
| **SESSION 03. Thurs June 3: ONLINE** | Topic: The Evolution of the Teacher Film  
Assignments: Watch recorded lectures 12 and 13; Take Teacher Movie Quiz  
Readings: CW CH 3; Accomando: The Best Movies About Inspirational Teachers; UMR: Teachers’ Favorite Teaching Movies; Swaity: Top 10 Inspirational Teacher Movies;                                                                 |
| **SESSION 04. Tues June 8: ONLINE** | Topic: How Teacher Movies Look and Sound  
Assignments: Submit Journal 2; Take Quiz CH 3  
Readings:                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| **SESSION 05. Wed June 9: ONLINE** | Topic: Motifs in Teacher Films  
Assignments: View Motif Clips; Begin work on Motif Assignment  
Readings:                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| **SESSION 06. Thurs June 10: ONLINE** | Topic: Films Tell Stories  
Assignments: Watch recorded lectures 14 and 15; Take Quiz CH 10; Submit Motif Assignment (due 6/15)  
Readings: CW CH 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| **SESSION 07. Tues June 15: ONLINE** | Topic: Exploring Occupation/Profession Film genres  
Assignments: Take Quiz CH 7; Submit Journal 4  
Readings: CW CH 8; Campbell 10 Documentaries to Get You Ready for the First Day Back to School; Glick: 5 Must-Watch Documentaries On Education;                                                                                               |
| **SESSION 08. Wed June 16: ONLINE** | Topic: The Documentary Teacher Film  
Assignments: Complete the 8th Film Assignment  
Readings: CW CH 8; Stenhouse: A Teacher Reviews “Waiting for Superman”; Ranker: Best Documentaries About Education                                                                                                                   |
| **SESSION 09. Thurs June 17: ONLINE** | Topic: Why Having Conversations with Others About A Film Can Help You Gain A Deeper Understanding of That Film  
Assignments: Familiarize yourself with the Interview Assignment  
Readings: Sample Interview Papers Submitted by Students in Previous Semesters                                                                                                                                       |
| **SESSION 10. Tues June 22: ONLINE** | Topic: How Career Films and Television Series Shape Your View of Professions  
Assignments: Familiarizing yourself with Career Films focusing on Journalists, Writers, Doctors, and Lawyers  
Readings: 20 of the most memorable teachers in TV history                                                                                                               |
Assignments: Familiarizing yourself with articles that critique the image of the teacher as portrayed in film  
Readings: TeachHub. Mattis, 5 Reasons to Secretly Loathe Inspirational Teacher Films; Academic Questions – A Review of 3 Teacher Films. Lane, New Yorker, Hollywood’s Teacher Narratives are Reductive, Atlantic, Beatty; |
| **SESSION 12. Thurs June 24: ONLINE** | Topic: Understanding How these Films Have Influenced You  
Assignments: Complete the Teacher Rating Behavior Scale.  
Readings:                                                                                           |