Writing 109F: Writing about Film and Media

**Prerequisites:** Writing 2, 2LK, 2E; upper-division standing.

**Catalog Description:** Analysis and practice of public, critical, and theoretical writing about film, television, and media. Writing projects include film responses, film reviews, and critical and theoretical analyses. Attention is given to disciplinary resources, formal conventions, and style.

**Course Description:** Writing 109F is designed to increase students’ ability to communicate effectively about film, television, and media in a variety of genres and for multiple audiences and purposes. Apart from learning to properly use film terminology, students will examine and practice effective rhetorical approaches to writing about film and media. Students will learn how to articulate, develop, and support a position by using film evidence as well as secondary sources about film and media. To this end, students will discuss and analyze films and media; read and critique critical texts about film and media; conduct library research; propose and conduct research projects in which they effectively integrate secondary sources; and learn the formal conventions of different genres of writing about film and media. At the end of the course, students will produce peer-reviewed, persuasive, and cogent analyses.

**Curricular Premises:** Writing 109F addresses various aspects of writing about film and media, such as the nature and value of research; the rhetorical position of the critic and the reviewer; and the consideration of aesthetic, ideological, generic, cultural, and ethical contexts within which film, television, and media works have been created. Students entering the course must be prepared to examine different genres, including popular reviews, scholarly criticism, and technical and rhetorical analyses in order to develop an awareness of specific genre conventions, rhetorical strategies, and intended audiences for film and media writing. The particular subject matter of the course, including film and media selections, will vary depending on the instructor.

**Course Requirements:**

**Texts:** Readings for the course provide examples of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to film and media, including scholarly essays on select films or media, film or television reviews, guides for writing about film or media, and film or media theory.

**Assignments:** Course assignments typically include but are not limited to a) public writing, such as film or tv reviews, b) research projects, and c) critical, technical, or theoretical analyses. Additionally, informal in-class and out-of-class assignments will allow students to respond critically to readings, films, or film and tv clips shown in class or viewed at home. Grades are determined by formal and informal writing assignments, class participation, and, in some cases, presentations and group projects.

**Outcomes:**

* Develop and refine an academic writing style appropriate to film and media studies and its discourse community
* Apply genre-specific conventions, including understanding and use of specialized terminology
* Write effectively within the specific genre and social context by focusing on specialized forms
* Conduct a significant independent project, drawing on primary and/or secondary sources from a range of resources, including specialized professional journals, databases, websites, magazines, fan sites, and other pertinent literature
* Contextualize and attribute sources within a field appropriately
* Produce a series of shorter texts that demonstrate typical content, formats, and stylistic conventions of the field
* Tailor writing to address the requirements of lay, professional, or specialized audiences