

English Composition 101/ Section 12 Films of the 70s
Instructor: [Mike Miller](#) TTh 1:30-2:50

Office hours: free period Tues/Thurs. Email: michmill@camden.rutgers.edu



For one shining decade—the 1970s—the American movie industry took enormous risks and broke barriers in giving film audiences what television could not: mature themes, frankly explored. As we learn how to write academic essays, we'll examine work from auteur directors Sam Peckinpah, Milos Forman, and Roman Polanski. As we read critical literature on film and film-making while studying the process of translating screenplays into visual form, we'll develop a richer appreciation of this medium.

Required Texts / Programs

Chocolat by Joanne Harris
HOLLYWOOD: From Reagan to Vietnam by Robin Wood
Microsoft Word for electronic submissions
Selected readings on sakai.rutgers.edu/portal
Penguin College Handbook
Strongly recommended: A good college dictionary

Course Requirements

Two five-page essays, MLA format	60 points/20(final)+5 points(rough draft) each
Attendance/Class participation	10 points
Oral presentation/research	10 points
<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>20 points</u>
	100

This is a composition seminar, so our emphasis is on writing. In order to succeed in this course, you will need to build grammatically flawless essays that make sense, and that follow a thesis-generated argument. We will learn basic essay forms and MLA-documentation rules. Since all essays will go through a rigorous revision process (a proposal, then a rough draft, followed by a teacher/student conference, and a peer review) there are no valid excuses for poor work. I insist that students who have trouble with writing seek the help of the Learning Resource Center's free tutoring services.

Classroom Policies

My teaching style is informal. If you have any questions during class, please feel free to interrupt me. If you disagree with what is being said, I encourage you to *politely* voice your opposition. No raising of hands is necessary, unless things get too rowdy.

Each student is permitted 3 absences. After your 3rd absence, your final grade will be lowered one grade per class missed.

Papers are due on the date indicated on the syllabus. Students will be responsible for having read the pages listed on the syllabus for each class. Please bring a hard copy of these readings for class discussions. It's

cheaper to print them out at the student computer labs than at home, so get your money's worth for your computer fees. More articles will be added to the Sakai-site as the semester proceeds, and you will be alerted to the supplemental readings by e-mail. **All student work is to be submitted to me electronically using Microsoft Word (no Corel please!), except for the portfolio, and in-class writings.**

Portfolios

At the time of our university scheduled final examination, portfolios are due. The portfolio is a collection of your two long essays along with a 2-page cover letter that describes your progress this semester in English Composition 101. They should be presented in an attractive folder, and you may add artwork if you think it will improve the over-all appearance.

Tentative Syllabus

- 9/4 Course Introduction
- 9/6 *Chocolat* p 1-100 discussion
- 9/11 *Chocolat* p 101-200 discussion/2 page writing sample on *Chocolat* due
- 9/13 *Chocolat* p. 201-306 discussion/ intro to film analysis
- 9/18 *Chinatown 1* directed by Roman Polanski/ C1 readings on Sakai
- 9/20 *Chinatown 2* directed by Roman Polanski/ read lines 1-125 Robert Towne screenplay:
<http://members.aol.com/rwsmittjr/scripts/chinatown.txt>
- 9/25 *Chinatown* discussion/ read lines 125- THE END Robert Towne screenplay:
<http://members.aol.com/rwsmittjr/scripts/chinatown.txt>
- 9/27 **first proposal due** (1-2 pages)
- 10/2 peer review (bring three copies of your rough draft—minimum 2 pages)
- 10/4 **rough draft due** (3-4 pages)
- 10/9 **conferences** Group A
- 10/11 **conferences** Group B
- 10/16 **final paper # 1 due** (5 pages) Group A/*Rosemary's Baby 1*/ R1 readings on sakai
- 10/18 **final paper due** (5 pages) Group B/ *Rosemary's Baby 2*/ R2 readings on sakai
- 10/23 *Rosemary's Baby* discussion/ C3 readings on sakai
- 10/25 *Midnight Cowboy 1* directed by John Schlesinger/M1 readings on sakai
- 10/30 *Midnight Cowboy 2*/ M2 readings on sakai
- 11/1 *Midnight Cowboy* discussion
- 11/6 **library orientation day** (meet in basement of Robeson Library) complete modules 1-3 on SEARCHPATH
- 11/8 **oral reports**

- 11/13 **proposals due**
- 11/15 peer review (bring in 3 pages of rough draft)
- 11/20 **rough drafts due**
- 11/22 **Thanksgiving Recess**
- 11/27 **conferences** Group B
- 11/29 **conferences** Group A
- 12/4 **final paper due** Group B/ *Straw Dogs* 1 directed by Sam Peckinpah
- 12/6 **final paper due** Group A/ *Straw Dogs* 2 directed by Sam Peckinpah
- 12/11 **Last regular class/portfolio seminar**
- 12/17 **portfolios due 2-3PM during scheduled final period**