

# Modern Auteurs

(ARH4930)

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FAC 121

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 2pm-3pm

This course explores concepts and styles of three of the most prominent auteur directors working today. David Lynch burst onto the filmic scene in 1977 with the surreal horror-noir *Eraserhead* and, twenty-five years later, his most familiar cast of characters kept their word and were once again to be found in the town of Twin Peaks. Like Lynch, Wes Anderson and Guillermo del Toro have defined and presented audiences with a fantastical worlds filled with zany and terrifying characters — from a crime caper in bubblegum pink hotel to a child's nightmarish fairytale; or a forbidden love story and an *Isle of Dogs*. Students will screen films from all three directors throughout the semester and analyze design elements in addition to visual structures of narrative and cultural import and response. No prior film training is expected and the course will cover visual analysis for film in addition to film theory.

*Cowboy: No, you're not thinkin'. You're too busy being a smart aleck to be thinkin'. Now I want ya to think and stop bein' a smart aleck. Can ya try that for me?*

*Edith Cushing: You're monsters. Both of you!*

*Lucille Sharpe: Funny. That's the last thing mother said too.*

*M. Gustave: You're looking so well darling, you really are. I don't know what sort of cream they put on you down at the morgue but, I want some.*

## Assignments

**Pop Quizzes (x6): 30%**

**Paper: 30%**

**Final: 40%**

\*\*Papers will be due by the last class meeting on December 5. You are free to turn your paper in earlier if you so choose. Further details about the paper will be forthcoming. For undergraduates the paper should be no less than 3000 words and for graduate students no less than 5000 words.

UF grading policy for assigning grade points can be read at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **Readings**

For this class you will not be required to do weekly readings, rather, you will be given four films to screen each week for classes. Some films are available through the university's streaming service Kanopy and all others through course reserves. I strongly suggest you deploy another means of obtaining films such as Netflix as well.

### **Critical Dates**

Paper Due December 5, 2018 (by the beginning of class)

Final Exam December 11, 2018 at 800PM

### **Classroom Policy**

We will be exploring a range of topics and ideas in this course. Come to the material with an open mind and be prepared for class each day. Some of the readings are easy, some are challenging — if you need to re-read a certain piece. The better prepared you are for class and the more you invest the more you will take away. Be kind and courteous to one another.

Cell phones should remain off and away during class. You will be asked to leave if this is not adhered to and counted absent.

## **Attendance**

As an adult it is understood that life happens. As such you will be permitted **TWO** unexcused absences — upon the third unexcused absence your grade will be lowered one full letter grade per absence. Arriving late or leaving early will be regarded as an absence.

## **Other Vital Course Information and Policies**

First: Any change to the syllabus, assignments, or class itself will be delivered to you in writing via email.

Second: Failure to complete course assignments by their due dates will result in automatic failure of the course without exception.

Third: The university provides students with counseling services. This is truly an invaluable resource and they may be found at

University Counseling Services/ Counseling Center

301 Peabody Hall

P.O. Box 114100, University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>

Four: As a student it is asked of you to evaluate each course you take. These evaluation become available in the final weeks of the semester and may be found at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/>

Five: If you are in need of accommodation from a disability you will need to register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) and provide them with corresponding documentation. Once registered the Disability Resource will provide you with a letter to give to your instructors.

Six: This course, your behavior, and performance are all bound by the UF Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>). Plagiarism is a very serious violation. Any student violating university policy on plagiarism will, **AT A MINIMUM**, lose

one full letter grade to his or her final grade and be reported to the Dean of Students. If you are in doubt, or are unsure, please feel free to ask me.