COM 311

IDEA Objectives:  E= 1
I= 2, 7

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE:  The Early History of Film

COURSE NUMBER:  COM 311

I.  MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

The student will be able to:

1.  Have an understanding of the chronological order of the evolution of modern cinema.
2.  Have an understanding of the historical significance of film in regard to the major events of both U.S. and world history.

II.  METHODOLOGY

A.  Evaluation Procedure:

20% Midterm Exam – The midterm will be multiple choice questions and be taken online via Blackboard, to be completed by the end of week 7, will include material covered up to week 7.
30% Final Exam – The final will include multiple choice questions as well as blue-book essay questions, and will include material covered in the entire semester.
30% Structured External Assignment – See section IV for details on this project.
10% Quizzes - There will be 2 multiple choice quizzes given during the course of the semester each worth 5% of the total class grade.
10% Class Participation – this will include attendance, promptness, and involvement in class discussions.

III.  CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend class and participate actively and in a positive way. Questions and relevant observations are encouraged and enrich the experience of the entire class.

Computers in the classrooms are intended to be used as tools to enhance the students' learning experience. Instant messaging, gaming, emailing, and surfing the web are distractions to the student, the surrounding students, and the instructor and constitute inappropriate behavior. Students are ethically obliged to avoid these and similar practices.
IV. STRUCTURED EXTERNAL ASSIGNMENT:

Compare and contrast two films of the same genre. You may choose a film that has been discussed in class, or any film produced before 1960 for the first, and a film produced in the last 10 years for the second. Use any or all of the elements discussed in class to evaluate the films such as editing, cinematography, lighting, shot selection, music, mise-en-scène, story structure, and special effects. What genre-specific elements are the same, and what has changed over the years? Write a 5 – 7 page paper, double spaced, using specific examples from both films. Film choices must be submitted to the instructor for approval.