

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
English Writing, Literature, and Publishing Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: The Art of the Review: Movies, Books, and the Arts
Course Number: ENG 327
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: ENG 202 or permission of the instructor

Required Textbook (*subject to change*)

- Packet of Readings – (Copisteria Monteverde)
- Kneale, Matthew. When we were Romans. New York: Anchor, 2009.
ISBN - 9780307387868
- Parks, Tim. An Italian Education. New York: Vintage, 2001.
ISBN 13: 9780099286967
- Ryan, Michael. An Introduction to Criticism. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2012.
ISBN – 978-1-4051-8282-9

Recommended Websites

- Art News: <http://www.artnews.com/reviews>
- The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/culture>
- Modern Language Association: <http://www.mla.org>
- The Owl at Purdue: <http://www.owl.english.purdue.edu>
- The New Yorker Magazine: <http://www.newyorker.com>
- The New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/arts>
- The New York Review of Books: <http://www.nybooks.com>

Course description

This is an upper-level writing intensive course that focuses on the technique of writing about various arts using journalism's forms, principles and ethics. Students will learn to do appropriate research, become familiar with the criteria and guidelines for writing reviews of books, film, performance, art and architecture, and how to be artful within those journalistic boundaries.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. identify and distinguish between the four main purposes of an editorial
2. write convincing editorials
3. identify what constitutes a good book review (opinion based on set criteria)
4. write a book review
5. identify what constitutes a good film review (opinion based on set criteria)
6. write a film review
7. defend their opinions

Course Learning Activities

- Assignment 1 – Exhibition Review (1a,1d, 1e, 3b)
- Assignment 2 – Theatre Review (1a, 1d, 1e, 3a, 3b)
- Assignment 3 – Book Review (Kneale)
- This review is an in-depth evaluative essay (1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2b, 3a, 3b)
- Midterm (1a, 1b, 1e, 2a, 2b)
- Assignment 4 – Movie Review
- Collaborative Oral Presentation (aspect of Parks’s novel) (3a, 3b, 3c)
- Final Exam (1a, 1b, 1e, 2a, 2b)
- Participation (1a, 1b, 2a, 2b)

Assessment tools

Class participation	20%
Collaborative Oral Presentation	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Assignment – Book Review	20%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Class Introduction What is the function of a critic? Discussion of assigned reading	"Writing about Art"
Week 2	Discussion of assigned reading and in-class writing On-Site class to see exhibit Begin draft for Exhibition Review	"Analysis" in course reader (it follows "Writing about Art")
Week 3	Workshop Reviews Discussion of assigned reading See a performance	Read preface and chapter one in text "An Introduction to Criticism" for Wed.
Week 4	Exhibition review due Begin draft for theatre review	Chapter four and eight in "An introduction to Criticism" Class discussion. Chapter seven in "An Introduction to Criticism."
Week 5	Workshop Theatre review In class writing	Chapter eleven Foreword, introduction and chapter four of "Book Reviewing" in course packet for Monday
Week 6	Theatre review due. Class discussion of assigned readings Discussion of assigned readings. In-class writing	Chapters five, seven and nine of "Book Reviewing" in course packet Chapters sixteen and twenty of "Book Reviewing" in course packet for Monday.
Week 7	Discussion of assigned readings Review for Midterm Begin rough draft for book review of "When we were Romans" Midterm	
Week 8	Workshop book reviews In class writing	
Week 9	Book Review due Viewing of first part of film "Avanti" in class Second part of film "Avanti" in class Begin rough draft of Film Review	Chapter ten in text "An Introduction to Criticism."
Week 10	Workshop Film Review Class discussion on assigned reading	Chapter eleven in text "An Introduction to Criticism." summary in "An introduction to Criticism"
Week 11	Film review due. Discussion of assigned readings In class writing	
Week 12	Music & Dance. Each class participant will bring what they consider to be a well-written, informative and engaging review of a music or dance performance Oral Presentations	
Week 13	Oral Presentations Wrapping things up	
Week 14	FINAL EXAM	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		