EMF 364
Aesthetics of Film and Electronic Media
“Music in the Movies”

Prerequisite: EMF 221

Course Objectives: We’re going to read and talk about the role, form and aesthetics of movie music and how these have changed—or not—over time. We then will apply this understanding to specific films across film history, from different composers, working within the full range of genres. Our purpose is really four-fold:
(1) to heighten our appreciation of music in the movies;
(2) to explore how musical composition works in a film, from how instruments are used to set the mood in films to how music works with the narrative and other formal elements of film to convey things like love and suspense and joy and character and historical sweep;
(3) to better know film composers;
(4) to compare film music to other visual media.

Required Text: Roy M. Prendergast (RMP), Film Music, the neglected art, 2nd ed. (NY: W.W. Norton & Co., 1992)

Class Meetings
Week 1 Course Overview / Function, Aesthetics, Form and Shape of Movie Music
Reading Due: RMP, pp. 213-245; HO: “The Three Regimes”

Week 2 Aesthetics and Movie Music to 1935
Reading Due: RMP, pp. 3-34

Week 3 Aesthetics and Movie Music, 1935-1950
Reading Due: RMP, pp. 35-97

Week 4 Aesthetics and Movie Music since 1950
Reading Due: RMP, pp. 98-179
Paper/Presentation Topic Due

Week 5 Music and the Postproduction process
Reading Due: RMP, pp. 249-273; 291-307

Week 6 NO CLASS

Week 7 Composers, Their Music and Their Movies: Action and Adventure

Week 8 Composers, Their Music and Their Movies: Romance and Other Dramas
PAPER DUE

Week 9 Composers, Their Music and Their Movies: Suspense and Horror
PAPER RETURNED

Week 10 In-Class Presentations

Week 11 In-Class Presentations
Week 12  In-Class Presentations

Week 13  NO CLASS

Week 14  Composers, Their Music and Their Movies: History, War and Peace

Week 15  Music for cartoons, experimental films, television and commercials
          Reading Due:  RMP, pp. 180-209; 274-287

Week 16  Final Exam

**Papers and Presentation (45%)**
You will have one opportunity during the course to formally present to the class your thoughts on a composer and his/her work in one film responsive to the course material. The presentations will be no longer than 15 minutes and will include at least one film clip (DVD or VHS) to illustrate your points. You must submit a written paper (15%) of your presentation (30%), with appropriate citations and source materials. **I must approve your composer and film.**

**Short papers written in class (21%)**
There will be 3 short in-class papers, covering the readings, class discussions and screenings.

**Final Exam (24%)**
The final exam will be in two parts: the first part will be short answers responsive to the class discussions, screenings and readings. For the second part, you will screen a clip from a film and write a brief essay responsive to the course material.

**Attendance and Participation (10%)**
The best way to demonstrate your ability and convey your interest in the course is to offer your thoughts during class discussions and to ask good questions during your colleague’s presentations. If you’re coming to class, please be on time. I reserve the right to consider your attendance and participation when determining your final grade, up to 10% of your final grade.

**Grading**
Your course grade will be based on the total points you earn on the papers, exams and presentation (NOTE: Towson University does not offer a grade of “C-“grade at this time):
(A) 95-100; (A-) 90-94; (B+) 87-89; (B) 84-86; (B-) 80-83; (C+) 77-79; (C) 70-76; (D+) 67-69; (D) 64-66; (D-) 60-63; (F) 59 or below.

**Late Assignments:**
(1) You will lose 5% of the assignment grade per day for every day I receive it beyond the due date. Saturday and Sunday count as one day;
(2) If you haven’t turned in an assignment by the start of the next class meeting, you will receive a zero (0) for that assignment;
(3) Late assignments will be delivered to me in a form and/or place convenient to me.

**Make-Up Assignments:**
There are no make-up opportunities for the short in-class analyses, presentations or the final exam; if you miss these, you’ll receive a zero (0).

**Incompletes:**
I offer an incomplete grade only with documented explanation (I must have—at least 4 class sessions prior to the end of the semester—an official letter from your physician, the TU health service or your academic
advisor, documenting approved reasons for missing the class time and assignments required for successful completion of the course.)

**Extra Credit:**
There are ample and varied opportunities for you to demonstrate your knowledge of the course material. I do not offer further assignments for extra credit.

**What’s Expected of You in Our Classroom**

**Attendance**
If you’re coming to class, please be on time. I reserve the right to consider your attendance and participation when determining your final grade.

**Electronics:**
1. You cannot use a lap top computer to take notes in class;
2. Turn off your cell phone or set it to “vibrate”; no text messaging
3. If you need to take a call, step outside the classroom;
4. Put away all other electronic devices.

**Provisions:**
1. Finish dinner and your nap before coming to class;
2. You can bring a snack/drink to class, but be sure to take out your trash when you leave.

**Performance:**
1. Read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it in class;
2. Complete all assignments on time;
3. Take pride in your work;
4. If you cannot attend a class, it is your responsibility—on your own time—to get the notes and see any missed films or film clips.

**Academic Integrity**
1. Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic ethics. Do your own work and cite all appropriate sources;
2. Plagiarism will result in zero (0) on an assignment and perhaps other academic actions;