**COMM 7804/8804**

**Media Theory and Criticism Seminar**

Required texts:

Braudy and Cohen (eds.), *Film Theory and Criticism* (7th edition).

Specific films and television programs (assigned or chosen) that might require rental (for instant streaming or DVD).

Class Schedule:

Note: Readings or viewings marked as "(online)" will be linked on the Content page of the course site on eCourseware; all other readings will be found in *Film Theory and Criticism*.

Jan. 22 Introduction to course, overview of central concepts

29 What are media?/Introduction to realism

Reading:

McLuhan, "The Medium is the Message" (online)

Kracauer, "Basic Concepts"; Lumiere and Melies films (online) that demonstrate Kracauer's major points

Bazin, "The Ontology of the Photographic Image"

Chatman, "What Novels Can Do that Films Can't (and Vice Versa" (online); brief clip from Renoir's *Une Partie de campagne* that illustrates a central point of the essay (online)

Feb. 5 Realism and formalism

Reading:

Kracauer, "The Establishment of Physical Reality"

Einsenstein, "Beyond the Shot" and "The Dramaturgy of Film Form;" "Odessa Steps" sequence from Eisenstein's *Potemkin* (online)

Bazin, "The Evolution of the Language of Cinema;" clip from

Welles's *Citizen Kane* that illustrates central point about the use and effect of deep focus

Arnheim, "Film and Reality" and "The Making of a Film"

12 Formalism/Realism case study

Viewing (outside of class):

*Rear Window* (Hitchcock, 1954)

**Sequence analysis discussion due Sunday, Feb. 10, 10:00 p.m., in eCourseware dropbox**

19 Semiotics

Reading: TBA

26 Editing and Sound

Reading: TBA

Mar. 5 **Form and Content sequence analysis presentations**

12 Spring Break

19 Popular media as rhetoric

Reading: TBA

26 Genre

Reading: TBA

Apr. 3 Feminist theory and criticism

Reading: TBA

10 Post-colonial theory and criticism

Reading: TBA

17 **Genre/gender/race analysis presentations**

24 Media as cultural industry/advertising

Reading: TBA

May 1 Television criticism

Reading: TBA

NB: Schedule may change if circumstances or unexpected opportunities arise, or at the professor's discretion.

Requirements:

Contribution/Participation 25%

*Rear Window* sequence discussion 10%

Form and Content sequence analysis 20%

Genre/gender/race analysis presentation 20%

Final Exam 25%

Assignment instructions are detailed on separate documents.