English/Film Studies 312: Cinema and Digital Culture
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From cinema to cell phones, the multimedia context of contemporary life is rapidly changing. From the late 19th century kinetoscope to the 21st century iPhone, moving image culture has, in fact, never stopped reinventing or creating itself anew. This course provides a general introduction to the critical study of motion pictures in relation to digital media. We will examine the nature of the digital from a variety of perspectives: technological, economic and social. However, our primary approach will be cultural and aesthetic. Namely, we will look at how "new media," such as digital photography, video games, virtual reality, and the “World Wide Web,” refashion earlier forms such as film and television, as well as how these latter are, themselves, influenced by emerging media. In addition to studying critical, historical and theoretical texts on new technologies, we will consider the place of the Self within the context of new media. Class discussions will focus on readings, screenings, and web visits.

This course counts towards the UWM Film Studies Program, English - Plan H Track - Media, Cinema and Digital Studies, and Digital Arts and Culture Certificate Program.

TEXTS AND SCREENINGS

There are no required textbooks. All course readings will be available on D2L. A students can select from a variety of screening options (films, TV shows, websites) available on websites like Amazon Prime, FilmStruck, Netflix, YouTube or the UWM Media Library.