

ENGLISH 305U  
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## THE FILMS OF ALFRED HITCHCOCK

Alfred Hitchcock is unquestionably one of the most important directors in cinema history. Indeed, it is difficult to think of a director whose work is more immediately recognizable than Hitchcock's: his subject matter, themes, cinematic and sound techniques are remarkably unique in film history. Many directors – Brian De Palma is an example – owe their aesthetic to Hitchcock; the multitude of Hitchcock impersonators is further testimony to the groundbreaking importance of his cinematic production.

This course will treat Hitchcock's cinema from a number of perspectives. First, we will study some of the signature *technical* motifs in his work (all of which we'll define as the term moves forward): the forward track, the zoom-track shot, his use of sound, the intense visuality of his work. Then we will study some of his recurring *thematic* motifs: his representations of women, his association of guilt with the feminine, his Roman Catholicism, and his continued use of the "wrongly accused" man as a driving plot element. By term's end, you should be able to discuss Hitchcock's work in a language not unlike that used for discussions of literature – in terms of plot, character, diction (Hitchcock possesses a distinctive cinematic diction), style, and so on.

We will watch one film per week. Class will begin with a brief introduction, followed by a screening of the film. There will be a short break after the film, followed by further discussion.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. *The Hitchcock Romance: Love and Irony in Hitchcock's Films:* (Lesley Brill)
2. *The Hitchcock Reader:* (Deutelbaum and Poague)
3. Additional readings will be provided via D2L (online)

### GRADES:

**NOTE: BOTH THE MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS ARE ONLINE. I WILL INSTRUCT YOU CONCERNING THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS TO TAKE THE EXAM LATER IN THE TERM.**

1. **Midterm exam:**            **Multiple choice (50 to 75 questions and essay)**  
    **(35% of grade)**
2. **Final Exam:**            **Multiple choice (50 to 75 questions and essay)**  
    **(35% of grade)**
3. **Regular Quizzes:**       **Weekly (short answer or multiple choice (15%**  
   **of grade) (online)**
4. **Blog Entries:**            **One per week (15% of grade)**

**EMAIL POLICY:**

**I will check my email once per week, on Sunday evenings. If you send me an email at any time during the week, *you cannot expect a reply before Wednesday*. For example, an email sent to me on Thursday cannot expect a response until Monday morning at best, or Wednesday (with certainty).**

**ATTENDANCE AND SCREENING POLICY:**

**Attendance is required. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for screening that film on your own. My lectures will include materials that will be on the exams. You will be responsible for all other materials covered that day.**

***Remember, quizzes will be based on class notes, reading, and discussion among your fellow students.***