

Syllabus for (Un)Common Arts, “The Best Movies, Analyzed”, Fall 2020
Class # 26308, meeting time Tuesday Period 7, 1:55-2:45
Class # 26309, meeting time Wednesday Period 6, 12:50-1:40

(Un)Common Arts: A class where students view movies at home of significant intellectual and societal impact and discuss them in class.

Credits: 1 ; **Instructor:** Greg Stewart; stewart@phys.ufl.edu; 392 9263; Physics 2132; office hour: to be arranged with the students at the first class meeting

Writing or Math Req: None

Gen Ed: None.

Student assignments and expectations; objectives and goals: meet once per week on Zoom (Zoom address available on Canvas). During the semester, students lead discussion on at least 1 movie, in collaboration with a co-presenter. In general, if you proposed the movie you are a candidate to lead the discussion. Students, at the first meeting, will be requested to make suggestions by the second meeting for movies to view from a list, or from their own input. What sorts of movies interest/excite the students to view and discuss in class? Is viewing a movie that has a sequel something we should consider?

The overarching goal in the class is to answer: What, from the movie genre, speaks to us about daily life, and our hopes for the future? What do the movies watched during the semester teach us about how this genre can be so impactful?

The first movie viewed will be Blade Runner, a 1982 movie set in the future in Los Angeles in 2019 (!), starring Harrison Ford. Blade Runner was ranked #29/100 in 2014 in a poll of Hollywood insiders (studio chiefs, Oscar winners, ...) conducted by The Hollywood Reporter (THR) to determine the 100 best movies. One of the questions to be discussed after the movie is watched: how was it influential for Sci-Fi films that came after? A sequel, Blade Runner 2049, came out in late 2017. (Should we watch it?)

Evaluation/Grading: This will be based on class participation and attendance. There will be occasional short quizzes at the beginning of each class (after the first one) on the most recently watched movie. More than three missed classes will lower a student's grade by one level (e. g. from A to A-).

Course Schedule: (Week 1 starts Aug. 31)

Meet each week for 50 minutes to discuss the most recently viewed movie, and what insights students are finding into issues which interest them. 15 minute presentations will be given starting the second week.

Week 3 & 4; Discuss 2nd Movie

Week 5&6: Discuss 3rd Movie

Week 7&8: Discuss 4th Movie

Week 9: Spring Break, no class

Week 10&11: Discuss 5th Movie

Week 12&13: Discuss 6th Movie

Week 14&15: Review All 6 Movies; Summary Presentations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Requirements for class attendance are consistent with university policies that can be found at: catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points:
catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing **course evaluations** online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or viaufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/ .

Materials and Supplies Fees: Students are responsible for finding the required movies, and for paying any required fees.

Professor Stewart, a physicist, is ready to catch up on all the great movies that the students/the general public know and love. He has been a fan of science fiction since forever (but likes all genres.) (“Round up the usual suspects.”) Movies that he particularly liked in the Spring, 2020 classes were Avatar, Parasite, and Gladiator.