Course Expectation Resource Sheet - MED 274

"What can students expect if they choose this course?"

Course: MED 274 - Introduction to Film
Department: Communication, Media, Journalism and Film
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisite: None
Catalog Description: The aesthetic and technical perspective of all types of motion pictures (narrative, non-narrative, experimental), using a number of selected domestic and foreign films as examples. Written analyses are required. Viewing of selected films outside of class time may be required.
Catalog: *2025-2026* ***Last Updated:*** *9/19/2025*

Gen Ed Course: Yes
Gen Ed Area: HUMAN CULTURES
Gen Ed Requirement: Humanities (GEC 111)

CORE-42 Course: Yes
CORE-42 Area: Humanities & Fine Arts
MOTR Code - MOTR Title: FILM 100 - Introduction to Film

Is credit also available through:

Advanced Placement (AP)?: No
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)?: No
International Baccalaureate (IB)?: Yes
(click link for more information and required scores)

Responses and Advice from Department Representatives

Please refer to your individual class syllabus for details and communicate regularly with your teacher for specific questions and concerns.
Last Updated: 11/4/2026

The following responses apply to: MED274 is most often offered as an online-only class. In-person seated sections are offered periodically. Language below will indicate specificity of modality, if applicable.

What expectations do you have for students in this course?
Students in MED274 are expected to possess reading comprehension, written communication, and time-management skills connoted by the completion of a secondary education certification (such as a high school diploma or GED). Familiarity with film analysis is not required — students will build this knowledge during the semester! In both online-only and in-person versions of the course, students are expected to regularly: (1) watch feature-length films, (2) complete assigned readings, and (3) complete quizzes, written assignments, and exams. Students registered for in-person sections are expected to physically attend course meetings (lectures and screenings) regularly.

What types of study skills do you expect students to use in this course?
MED274 students are expected to practice reading and film viewing skills by watching required films and completing readings and interactive textbook activities and quizzes online. Students should actively take notes on important vocabulary and concepts addressed in the course textbook. They should also practice taking notes while watching assigned films so they can note examples of concepts in use by filmmakers. Students enrolled in seated versions of the course will also find it helpful to take notes at lectures. Regardless of modality, students are expected to follow the course schedule on the syllabus and the course website (Brightspace), both of which list due dates for all graded components of the course.

What study techniques seem to work best for students who do well in this course?
The most consistently successful students are those who regularly participate in class by (1) completing assignments; (2) using the interactive textbook tools; (3) watching required films; (4) completing and taking notes on required readings; and (5) submitting assignments by relevant deadlines. Reading and acting upon instructor feedback on assignments is also an important study skill.

What behaviors or habits seem to cause students to struggle in this course? What types of struggles do you see most often? What recommendations do you give to students who struggle in this course? What other advice do you offer to students for success in this course?
Students who struggle with time management and meeting regular weekly deadlines often struggle in this course, especially when enrolled in the online-only version of MED274. Behaviors and habits that result in students struggling often stem from (1) failure to watch required films and complete readings; (2) not submitting required assignments by deadlines; (3) not following assignment directions; and (4) insufficient time studying for exams. When the course is administered in-person, students with poor attendance and/or inattentiveness at lectures also often struggle. The best ways to overcome struggles within MED274 are to maintain consistent and active engagement with the course (i.e., completing readings, taking notes) and to read and follow the schedule and assignment directions carefully. Students are encouraged to meet with the course instructor in-person or virtually should they have concerns. The instructor may also direct the student to different campus resources (such as BearCLAW tutoring), if applicable.

How do you describe the course to students when they ask "What is this class about?" (without using the catalog description)?
MED274 is about learning to appreciate film art and technology. By watching a wide variety of films, you'll learn about different approaches to narrative, plot, and genre, and consider how the creative use of visual and sound elements (such as editing, cinematography, animation, special effects, lighting, costumes, and soundtracks) help produce meaning. You'll practice close reading in ways somewhat similar to how you did with a novel, short story, or poem in high school — but with the added elements of image and sound!

Beyond meeting a General Education requirement, what benefits can students realize from choosing this course?
Students will gain broader knowledge about popular visual culture. They will also develop critical thinking skills by learning about how film form and content intertwine. Overall, knowledge gained in the course will enrich students' everyday appreciation of film, television, and other forms of media.

Other than your major/minor/certificate students, what groups of students could find this course relevant to their degree program or career path?
The material in MED274 is broadly relevant for students outside the Communication, Media, Journalism, and Film (CMJF) programs. Students who will find this course especially relevant will be those pursuing degrees in literature, English, history, the performing arts, art, art history, and more. Students with interests in business may enjoy learning more about aspects of the commercial film industry.