Syllabus — Fall 2009  
Pima Community College — Northeast Education Center  
Literature 289 (Literature & Film)  
CRN (Section Code) 12821

Fall Semester: August 26 — December 16  
Meeting Times: Wed. Nights 6:30 — 9:10  
Location: Northeast Education Center NEC — Room 109  
Instructor: Mr. Knight Office -137 (In "O-1" Building at East Campus)  
Office Hours: Mon. 2:30 — 4:30 Wed. 2:30 — 3:30  
Tues. & Thurs. 2:30 — 3:30, or by appointment.

2 Required books:  
*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, *Yale University Press. $6.95*  
*And either Cinema Paradiso* (the screenplay) by Giuseppe Tornatore,  
_or The Hours,* a novel, by Michael Cunningham.  
*Note: None of these texts, *Romeo and Juliet, Cinema Paradiso, or The Hours* are available at the Northeast Education Center or at the East Campus Bookstore. They can be purchased used on-line or perhaps borrowed on loan from a library.

Please read pages 3 – 4, “Should You Take This Course?” before you read further.  
*Note: Tuesday, September 8 is the Official Refund Deadline for obtaining a refund.*  
Students who do not process a “drop” by the official refund deadline (Tuesday Sept. 8) will not receive a refund and may be held financially liable for tuition and fees. Important: If you decide to drop this, or any class, you must fill out the Registration Transaction form or process the classes you want to drop through the MAX 2000 system before the official Refund Deadline. *Note: Adding, dropping, or withdrawing from classes may affect your financial aid, veterans benefits, international student status, academic standing, or athletic eligibility. See an Advisor, Counselor, or appropriate department to assist you before making any changes. For adding a traditional, semester-length course after September 1, the course must be open and it is necessary to obtain the instructor's permission and signature for the class you want to add.*

How to Add, Drop, or Withdraw from a Course: *either*  
- Go online to MyPima at [www.pima.edu](http://www.pima.edu)  
- In person, complete a Registration Transaction Form, or  
- Max 2000 (note: withdrawal not available with Max 2000)

*Note: students who are absent for 6 classes will be withdrawn.*

**Withdrawing:** (Not accessible by the Web or MAX 2000) To withdraw from an 8 week class, a student must complete and process a Registration Transaction form after the Official Refund Deadline (September 8) but before the official Withdrawal Deadline (November 12).  
(See also Attendance Policy p. 5)  
November 12, 2009 is the official Withdrawal Deadline for withdrawing from an 8 week semester classes. You will not receive a refund if you withdraw. However, if you process a Withdrawal by the official withdrawal deadline of Nov. 12, you will receive a grade of “W” (official withdrawal) for this class on your academic record. If you do not process a withdrawal by Nov. 12, you may receive a failing grade for this class. Therefore, it is your responsibility and in your best interest to process a withdrawal from this and/or other classes before the withdrawal deadline of November 12.

Due dates and homework assignments on this syllabus are subject to change.  
I do not give "Incompletes" for this course.
Course Description and Objectives:

**Prerequisite:** WRT 102 or Writing 108

During this course, we will view approximately 10 films. For two of them, *Romeo and Juliet*, and either *Cinema Paradiso* or *The Hours*, we will also be reading the play by William Shakespeare and either the screenplay of *Cinema Paradiso* or the novel of *The Hours*. Last year, it was possible to download a free online copy of the screenplay for the film, *Cinema Paradiso* by Giuseppe Tornatore. This may (or may not) be still available. There will be a Test on *Romeo and Juliet* that asks you to write from memory one of 5 passages from this play. There will also be a True – False Quiz on the screenplay, *Cinema Paradiso* or on the novel, *The Hours*. Students will take the quiz that applies to the work they are reading. Also, additional essays on the films and readings will be assigned. The purpose of this class is to view, discuss, and write about award winning, critically acclaimed films as well as distinguished literature. Films and literature were chosen both for their historic interest, their dramatic appeal, and their power to challenge and inspire.

Unlike other courses that usually appeal to the intellect, this course is set up primarily as an experience designed to both entertain and enlighten. Many of the films we will be viewing journey deep into the dark forests of the unconscious and explore extreme states of human awareness. Our aim, in the words of Henry David Thoreau, is to “front the essential facts of life, and see if we can learn what they have to teach.” We do this, again quoting Thoreau, so that when we “come to die,” we will “not discover that we have not lived.”

**Course Objectives include:**

1. to view and discuss at least 10 films.
2. to write two essays (one on *City Lights* and a second on the play *Romeo & Juliet*) plus a Final Paper on one of three films.
3. to confront and explore human greatness in both literature and film.
4. to begin to develop a “personal aesthetic” that will help each of us to learn to distinguish between films and stories that are merely entertaining from those that have lasting value.
5. to learn to take creative risks in both speaking and writing.
6. to make creative connections about how works of art can both enliven and instruct us in ways to live fuller, more passionate, more worthwhile lives.

A final thought: ultimately we read, as scholar Harold Bloom has pointed out, “in order to strengthen the self, and to learn its authentic interests.”
Should You Take This Course?

This is an elective course. No one, certainly not the instructor, is requiring you to take it. Therefore, you are free to either stay in this class or drop it and look for something else. This is your decision and your responsibility. The purpose of this section is to give you a preview of what to expect from the films and literature we will be encountering so that if you feel you are likely to be upset or offended by some of the four letter words, partial nudity, sexuality, and/or violence that you will at times be viewing, you can decide beforehand to drop this course and perhaps take something else.

I want to be very clear. If realistic violence and/or “R” rated sexual behavior, partial nudity, and admittedly vulgar swearing with the repetitive use of four letter words that we will occasionally be encountering in various, award winning films and novels is something you would rather avoid, then it is your responsibility, having been notified of this beforehand, to either accept the content of this course for what it is or to drop this course and find another course that you feel would be more suitable.

Please be aware that this is a college course for adults. If you are under 18 years of age, you will need to have your parents sign a parental consent form for you to submit by the second class if you wish to stay in this class. Please see your instructor at the end of the first class to obtain this form if you are currently under the age of 18.

There are scenes in some of the films we will be viewing and novels we will be reading that contain events that for some of you, and myself included, may cause you to feel momentarily uncomfortable. I did not, however, select any of the films or literature for this course in order to shock you or to gross you out. I chose the films and literature listed in our Calendar of Films and Assignments for their artistic merit. My criteria for selection of works of art for this course is as follows: I attempted to find award winning works that both entertain and challenge the viewer. Finding challenging works of high artistic merit was not difficult. Selecting films and books that were also entertaining was, admittedly, another matter. After all, what one person finds enthralling another is apt to experience as trite or boring. As film critic Pauline Kael once cryptically remarked, “There is just no accounting for another person’s taste.” Hopefully, though, after surveying the broad range of films and literature that this course seeks to explore, you will have made some significant strides in a lifelong task of both forming and refining your own aesthetic taste and artistic standards of excellence. My own position is that life is far too short to waste one’s time on the standard, escapist, Hollywood fare. Accordingly, my credo for selecting the films and readings listed in the course calendar is perhaps best summed up by the following paraphrase from U. of A. grad and acclaimed poet, Tony Hoagland:

To me, a good poem (or film) threatens the reader a little.
It does this by crossing over some line of the social contract, or the poetic contract, which sets off alarms.

A really good poem (or film) is the one which breaks through the television screen of so-called normalcy into the real world and reminds the viewer that to participate in art is not a safe, living-room-lazy-boy-museum-tea-party experience, but that real art is about open heart surgery, being woken up, or taken somewhere unexpected and dangerous.

“Great art,” said novelist and critic Susan Sontag, “has the capacity to unsettle, to make us nervous.” It prompts us into questioning what we had thought we knew. “Interpretation makes art manageable, conformable.” Finding comfort, though, is not what the artist intends. The famous poet Rainer Maria Rilke once observed that “works of art come from those who have faced danger, gone to the very end of experience, to the point beyond which no human being can go. For the further one dares to go, the more precious, the more personal, and the more unique life becomes.” Nearly all great works of art embody the paradox of using words and images to suggest complex and often contradictory feelings that go deeper than words. And yet without our conscious efforts to translate our encounters with works of art into spoken and written language, we would not be able to go beyond what is obvious to encounter levels of understanding and insight that are both subtle and illuminating.

A theme contained in a number of the films in this course is not just the recognition of the “dark side” of humanity but an in depth cinematic experience into the often denied, shadow side of our own identities. Again, I want to emphasize that this course is not for everyone. In fact, one of the challenging issues that will likely come up as we explore characters who question life’s meaning and worry it has none is the universal human dilemma of how does one create a meaningful life after asking oneself that very question? One of the goals of this course is to experience and learn from what great films have always attempted to do; that is, to confront us with difficult, perplexing, yet wondrous material from the depths of human experience so that once we emerge from the dream-world dark when the film ends we may see, as if for the first time, the old world made new. Having said this, as well as everything else I have expressed on this and the previous page, I hope you will decide to stay.

Mr. Knight
Instructor, Lit. 289 (Literature & Film)  Please read, sign, and turn in the statement below.

I, __________________________ have read, understand, and accept this section of the Syllabus for Lit. 289 titled “Should You Take This Course.” Having been thus informed of the adult nature of this course, I have decided I have no objections to the content of this course, and I willingly look forward to viewing and discussing all of the films and assigned readings listed on the Calendar of Films and Assignments.

Signature: _____________________________ Date: ______________

(Note: Students under 18 must also submit a Parental Consent Form.)
Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be taken every class, but there is no Attendance Grade per say. However, students who are absent for 6 classes will be withdrawn from the class and receive a Final Grade of “W.” Thus, keep in mind that 5 absences is the most a student can accumulate and still remain in this class.

Your attendance reflects your commitment to this class and to your learning. Also, for this once a week class, each 2 hour 40 minutes class is equivalent to 2 regular classes. Therefore, it is important that you are here for every class unless you are sick. There is no such thing as an "excused absence" in this class. I realize, of course, that you might have to miss a class due to an illness. However, keep in mind that whenever you miss a class, regardless of the reason, you will be marked absent. This includes serious illnesses.

Remember, there is no such thing as an "excused absence" in this class, so do not bring letters from employers, doctors, dentists, or lawyers. Also, do not bring marriage certificates, death certificates, notices of jury duty, or other such documents. Keep in mind that the maximum number of allowable absences is 5. Students who miss 6 classes, regardless of their reasons, will be withdrawn. Absolutely no exceptions under any circumstance!

Colds and Flu:
If You Are ill, Please Stay Home!

Note: Do not attend class if you are coming down with a cold or the flu as that is when you are most contagious. Please be considerate of the health of others and do not show up to class sick (coughing and/or sneezing).

Making Up Films That You Miss:

IMPORTANT: films that we view during class will be placed on reserve at the East Campus Library, and you may view them there after you have gotten over your illness at a time that is convenient for you. Your Participation, Test, & Quiz Grade results from the number of films you view plus 1 Test and 1 Quiz.

To get an “A” for the Participation, Test, & Quiz Grade, you must view all 10 of the films that will be shown, get an “A” on the Test of 1 of 5 passages from Romeo & Juliet that will be given on Sept. 30, and also get at least a “B” on the quiz on The Hours. (See p. 9 for more information on grades.)

Arriving Late or Leaving Early:

Arriving late (or leaving early) is not acceptable. If you need to arrive late or leave early on a regular basis, then you must drop this class.

Being more than 10 minutes late on more than 3 occasions, or leaving class early more than once, regardless of the reason, will result in the lowering of you’re Participation and Test Grade by one full grade. However, arriving late or leaving early
will **not** effect one’s standing as to absences leading to a withdrawal. Only non-attendance for entire class periods will do that.

**E-mailing your instructor:**

Before e-mailing your instructor, **stop** and **think!** Take a moment to ask yourself, “Do I really need to ask my instructor for this information right now?” Be aware that in many cases the information that you are seeking is already explained in your Calendar of Assignments. Always check there first to make sure.

Also, remember that if you do decide to e-mail your instructor, you are placing your writing skills (or lack there of) on display. Be sure to carefully proofread the text of your e-mail for any spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors before you press the “Send” button.

**The one exception to not sending me e-mails is when you are sick.** If you are sick, please feel free to e-mail me or call my office (206-7805) instead of speaking to me in person. **Do not** attempt to speak with me in person if you are sick as I do not want what you’ve got and will walk away. If you are sick for just one class, you do **not** need to e-mail me. Simply check the Calendar of Assignments for homework that you will need to make up. **You have one whole week from the date you return from an absence to make up the homework that was due while you were absent.**

**PLEASE STAY HOME**

**IF YOU HAVE A COLD OR THE FLU!**

Also, **do not** come up and try to talk with me if you have a cold or the flu, as I do not want to catch what you’ve got. If you are sick and have a question that the syllabus or the Calendar of Assignments does not answer, please e-mail me or call my office at 206-7805 and leave me a message with your phone number and the best times to reach you. I am not on campus Friday through Sunday, so if you leave me a message on those days, I will not be able to call you back until Monday.

Mr. Knight
Typing and Format Requirements:

All Writing Exercises must be typed, double spaced, and use standard 12 point lettering (size of characters). Be sure to use standard manuscript format. Standard manuscript format includes a Title that is Centered, bolded, or underlined. Margins should be approximately 1 inch. Double space between each line within paragraphs, but do not skip lines between paragraphs.

Use standard, 8 & 1/2 " by 11" paper and do not use erasable paper. Attach papers that are more than one page with a paper clip or a staple.

Do not submit a separate title page. Instead, use a standard, single spaced heading at the top, right hand corner of your first page that includes your name, number & name of assignment (example, Tom Smith, First Wrt. Ex.), class & days class meets (example, Lit. 289 Mon. & Wed.), and date assignment is turned in. Note: our first writing assignment will ask you to demonstrate correct standard manuscript format and will be graded for a plus (+) or a (–).

Writing Exercises: There will be 2 required Writing Exercises plus a Final Paper.

Note: To earn a plus (+) for your Second Writing Exercise, this essay must show competency in all areas of writing. In other words, papers that lack the required page length or number of paragraphs, are deficient in content or organization, or have more than 2 run-on-sentences, or more than 2 sentence fragments, or a combination of more than 4 more run-on-sentences and fragments, or more than 4 agreement errors, or more than 4 spelling errors will receive a minus (–) instead of a plus (+). No “NI” grades will be given for this essay.

To earn a double plus (++) for your Second Writing Exercise, this essay must demonstrate outstanding work in all areas of writing including organization, well developed content, formal voice, accurate word choice, clear transitions, plus correct use of grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Note: a maximum of 1 spelling error and 2 agreement errors will be allowed and papers must be entirely free of run-on-sentences, sentence fragments, and other serious grammar errors in order to receive a double plus (++).

Make-Ups: If a student is absent on a day that a Writing Exercise is due, that student will have one week from the day he or she returns to submit his typed paper. After this 1 week time period, late papers will receive grades of minus (–). However, the Final Paper must be completed on time unless prior arrangements are made with your instructor. Otherwise, Final Papers not completed on time will receive a grade of “F.”

Grading Criteria: Individual papers will receive (+’s) pluses or (–’s) minuses, depending on the individual grading criteria as stated in the “Calendar Of Homework Assignments” for that particular assignment. Generally, papers that are grammatically competent, complete, have correctly followed the assignment’s instructions, and are turned in on time will receive (+’s).
Rubric for Final Paper:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Outstanding 3 pts. =’s 3 (+++)</th>
<th>Good 2 pts. =’s 2 (++)</th>
<th>Average 1 pt. =’s 1 (+)</th>
<th>Below Average 0 pts. =’s (-) Minus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization &amp; Development</td>
<td>Clear &amp; complete topic sentence and very well developed supporting details.</td>
<td>Mostly complete topic sentence &amp; good supporting details.</td>
<td>Adequate, but somewhat vague topic sentence and supporting details.</td>
<td>Incomplete or missing topic sentence. Few details or details lacking a clear connection to the topic sentence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sentence Structure, Grammar, &amp; Spelling</td>
<td>Clear &amp; complete sentences: no sentence fragments, no run-on sentences, and no other serious grammar errors. Also, no more than 1 spelling error.</td>
<td>Mostly complete sentences: 1-2 fragments or 1-2 run-on sentences. 2-3 spelling errors.</td>
<td>Adequate sentence structure: 3-4 fragments, or 3-4 run-on sentences. 4 spelling errors.</td>
<td>Problems with sentence structure: (5 fragments or 5 run-on sentences, or a combination of 6 fragments &amp; run-ons.) 5 spelling errors.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: if the Final Paper has 5 or more spelling errors, or 4 or more fragments or 4 or more run-on sentences, or a combination of 5 or more fragments and run-on sentences will receive a grade of minus “D.” Papers not turned in will receive a grade of “F.” No “NI” grades for Final Paper.

How Final Grades Are Calculated:
"A" =’s 4 points, "B" =’s 3 points, "C" =’s 2 points, "D" =’s 1 point, "F" =’s 0 points. Using this standard grade point system, I convert each of your 3 grades into points. The Participation, Test, & Quiz Grade counts 1/5 of your Final Grade, the Writing Exercise Grade counts 2/5ths, and the Final Paper Grade also counts for 2/5ths. The following scale is used to calculate your Final Grade.

To earn a Final Grade of:

- **A**, the average of your 3 grades must be 3.60 or higher (Note: 2 of the 3 grades count 2/5 each.)
- **B**, the average of your 3 grades must be 2.60 to 3.599
- **C**, the average of your 3 grades must be 1.60 to 2.599
- **D**, the average of your 3 grades must be 0.60 to 1.599
- **F**, the average of your 3 grades must be 0.00 to 0.599

Note: To earn an “A” for a Final Grade for this course, you must end up with a total of at least 18 points. (Highest possible point total is 20 (for 5 “A’s”). However, to achieve 18 points, a student must either get 3 “A’s” and 2 “B’s” or 4 “A’s” and 1 “C.” (Obviously, 2 “A’s” and 3 “B’s” would result in a Final Grade of “B”).

(See next page for “Grading Policy.”)
GRADING POLICY

Mr. Knight - Instructor

Your Final Grade will be determined by averaging the 3 grades that are explained below. (See this Syllabus p. 8 for "How Final Grades Are Calculated")

Number and Type of Grade:

1 Participation, Test & Quiz Grade counts 1/5 (20%) of Final Grade

Your Participation, Test, & Quiz Grade results from Number of Films Viewed (counts 2/5ths of this grade), your Test Score on Romeo & Juliet (also counts 2/5ths of this grade), and your Quiz Score from the quiz on either the screenplay, Cinema Paradiso or the quiz on the novel, The Hours (this quiz will count 1/5th of this grade).

The Test will ask you to write from memory one of 5 passages from Romeo & Juliet. (See pp. 9 – 13 of Calendar of Films & Assignments for the 5 passages.)

Grade Scale for Test on one passage from Romeo and Julie:
0 – 3 errors =’s “A” 4 – 6 errors =’s “B,” 7 – 9 errors =’s “C,” 10 (or more) errors =’s “F.”

Grade Scale for Number of Films Viewed. To earn a grade of:

Grade Scale for Quiz on either the Screenplay, Cinema Paradiso or on the novel, The Hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minus 0</th>
<th>=’s “A”</th>
<th>Minus 2</th>
<th>=’s “C”</th>
<th>Minus 4</th>
<th>=’s “F”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minus 1</td>
<td>=’s “B”</td>
<td>Minus 3</td>
<td>=’s “D”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: If you need to miss one or more classes due to an illness, you may view the film (or films) you missed at the East Campus Library where all films for this class will be placed “On Reserve.” (See pages 24 – 25 in your Calendar of Films and Assignments for Directions and Make Up Form.)

Colds and Flu: Please be considerate of others and do not attend classes if you are sick with a cold or the flu. You can still receive credit for any films you missed by viewing them later at the East Campus Library.

1 Writing Exercise Grade counts 2/5ths (40%) of Final Grade

(There will be 2 typed Writing Exercises. Both will be graded. Your Writing Exercise Grade will be determined by the number of pluses (+'s) on the 2 Writing Exercises.)

Note: the first of these typed Writing Exercises will be graded either plus (+), “NI,” (Needs Improvement), or minus (–). The Second Writing Exercise, will be graded either plus (+), double plus (++) or minus (–). No “NI” Grades will be given for Writing Exercise # 2.

Writing Exercise Grade Scale: 3 (+’s) =’s "A" 1 (+) =’s "D"
2 (+’s) =’s "B" 0 (+’s) =’s “F”

1 Final Paper Grade counts 2/5ths (40%) of Final Grade

Your Final Paper, a 3 to 3 & ½ page essay, will be graded either plus (+) “C,” double plus (++) “B,” triple plus (+++) “A,” or minus (–) “D.” Papers not turned in will get an “F.”

3 Grades (Total) count 5/5ths of Final Grade

Note: All Writing Exercises & Final Paper must be typed. Make Ups: Late papers will be given one week from the date a student returns from an absence to be turned in. After 1 week, late papers will receive a minus or “F.”
About Your Instructor:

A Brief Biography

Mr. Knight began teaching at Pima Community College in 1976. Since then, he has taught all levels of composition and literature including Writing 70, 100, 101, 102, Modern Literature, Science Fiction, Honors Writing, and Creative Writing. He earned his Bachelor’s Degree from Amherst College and has a Master’s Degree from the University of Massachusetts.

At Amherst, he graduated with honors in English Literature in 1969. Amherst College is nationally recognized as one of the nation’s top liberal arts colleges and is consistently ranked by the annual *U.S. News and World Report* survey on academic excellence as the number one or number two small-college in the country.

Mr. Knight has co-authored two books on education including the *Arizona Adult Education Teacher’s Manual* and *IMPACT: A Handbook of Creative Teaching Methods*. He has also authored numerous literary articles, poems, and essays. In 1983, Mr. Knight founded a backpacking organization and has led group hiking treks to Havasu Canyon in the Grand Canyon on fifteen separate occasions.

When asked to summarize his academic and educational philosophy, he stated the following credo:

“Writing is a skill that can only be developed with diligence and practice. Success in writing, as in life, does not come without effort and hard work.”