

# **CTCS 469: The Style of Martin Scorsese Summer 2009**

(First Session)

**Monday & Wednesdays  
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Norris Theater**

**Instructor: Dr. Drew Casper**  
The Alma and Alfred Hitchcock Professor of American Film

## **Course Description:**

An in-depth analysis of the style of Martin Scorsese: his respective periods, development, extra-cinematic determinants (major historical events, economic situation, societal issues and other popular leisure activities) and cinematic determinants (film business, technology, generic patterns, and other pre-existing/co-existing styles), production methods, techniques, themes, and finally Scorsese's significance to popular culture.

**Teaching Assistants:** Kate Fortmueller ([kfortmueller@gmail.com](mailto:kfortmueller@gmail.com)) & David Lerner ([lerner2003@yahoo.com](mailto:lerner2003@yahoo.com)). Office Hours: IMS Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Monday and Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30pm

## **Dr. Casper's Office Hours:**

12:00 – 1:00pm, Monday and Wednesday  
323 School of Cinematic Arts Building – (213) 740-3334

If you wish to see Dr. Casper during his office hours, you must make an appointment in advance by signing up on the appointment sheet at the front desk of the Critical Studies office (SCA 320).

## Course Requirements:

- I. **Attendance**: Prompt and regular attendance for the full class period is of extreme importance. Missing the screening of any film will seriously limit your success in the course. NOT ALL OF THE FILMS SCREENED IN CLASS ARE AVAILABLE ON VIDEOTAPE OR DVD. It is your responsibility to make up any missed screenings and to obtain detailed notes from another student.
- II. **Required Readings**: Copies of each of these books will be on reserve on the ground level of Leavey Library. All books are available at the bookstore.  
**Note: Readings will not be assigned per class session. You are free to divide the readings at your discretion, but are required to complete them by the final lecture.**
  - A. Brunette, Peter, ed. Martin Scorsese: Interviews. Jackson: University of Mississippi Press, 1999.
  - B. Casillo, Robert. Gangster Priest: The Italian American Cinema of Martin Scorsese. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006.
- III. **Additional Screenings**: In addition to the films screened in class you will be responsible for viewing the additional films outside of class.
  - A. *The Last Waltz* (United Artists, 1976)
  - B. *The Color of Money* (Buena Vista, 1986)
  - C. "Life Lessons" in *New York Stories* (Buena Vista/Touchstone Pictures, 1989)
  - D. *Kundun* (Buena Vista/Cappa Productions/Touchstone Pictures, 1997)
  - E. *Gangs of New York* (Miramax/Touchstone Pictures, 2002)
  - F. *The Aviator* (Appian Way/Cappa Productions/Miramax, 2004)
  - G. *The Departed* (Warner Bros., 2006)
- III. **Papers and Exams**: Papers are to be turned in by the end of the screenings on the date they are due. Students also need to submit electronic copies of their papers to Turnitin on Blackboard by 11:59 pm the day that the paper is due. Do not turn in papers to the TA office. Late papers will be excused only in those cases of documented illness or family emergency. **LATE PAPERS WILL DROP ONE LETTER GRADE FOR EACH CLASS SESSION THE PAPER IS LATE.** All papers must be turned in by the last lecture on June 29. FAILURE TO WRITE A PAPER OR EXAM WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC F FOR THE COURSE.

To turn in your paper electronically, go to the Assignments section of Blackboard. There, you will see three links (Paper #1, Paper #2, and Final), open the appropriate link and the submission form will open. Enter your name and a submission title and then, click the browse button to locate the file you want to submit. Click submit to upload the selected file to Blackboard.

VI. **Academic Integrity:** Be sure to read the attached sheet outlining “Academic Integrity Violations.” PLAGIARISM WILL BE REPORTED TO THE OFFICE OF STUDENT CONDUCT (see your SCampus), WILL RESULT IN FAILURE OF THE COURSE, AND COULD LEAD TO DISMISSAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY. If you have any questions or doubts about how to properly cite a source, see your Teaching Assistant or drop by the Writing Center (Taper Hall 310).

## Grade Requirements:

Paper #1	25% of final grade	Due June 8
Paper #2	25% of final grade	Due June 17
Final Exam	50% of final grade	Due June 29

Note: Grade requirements apply to both undergraduate and graduate students

**Two 6-page papers:** Both papers should be 6 full pages in length, typed, double-spaced, using 12-point Times font and 1.25 inch margins.

### **Paper #1 (due June 8):**

Where and how does Scorsese shift genre paradigms? Drawing on relevant examples from any **two** of the following films: *Boxcar Bertha*, *Mean Streets*, *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, *Taxi Driver* and *New York, New York*, discuss how Scorsese alters their respective genres.

### **Paper #2 (due June 17):**

Critics have suggested that there has been a decline in the quality of Scorsese's last three films. Do you agree or disagree with this assertion? How are these films different from his earlier films? Exemplify your answer with specific examples from the films.

### **Take Home Final Exam (due June 29):**

Students will be given the questions for the take-home final in the early weeks for the semester, and it will be your responsibility to appropriately answer each question over the course of the semester. Final exams should be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point Times font and 1.25 inch margins. Each exam question should be answered in 2 pages (approx. 500 words).

## Disability Services:

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the lead T.A. as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30am - 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, phone number (213) 740-0776.

## Norris Cinema Theater:

Norris Cinema Theater is a unique classroom. It is used to showcase speakers and films for the guests of the School of Cinematic Arts and other departments at USC. Designed as an ideal viewing environment, the carpeting and upholstery are considered part of the acoustical design. Also, please do not leave a mess in the theater. Please throw out any trash you bring into the theater. If a TA sees you trying to bring food or drink into the theater, you will be asked to eat or drink outside the theater. We ask your cooperation in keeping Norris Cinema Theater presentable by adhering to the following rules:

NO SMOKING, EATING, OR DRINKING IN THE THEATER OR THE LOBBY. ALSO, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PLACING YOUR FEET ON THE SEATS. IF YOU MUST LEAVE THE THEATER DURING A LECTURE OR A FILM, DO NOT USE THE SIDE DOORS; EXIT INSTEAD THROUGH THE REAR DOORS.
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# CTCS 469 SYLLABUS FOR SUMMER 2009

## Session 1: Wednesday, May 20

### I. Starting out

#### ***Boxcar Bertha*** (American International Pictures, 1972)

- Producer: Roger Corman
- Writer: John William Corrington and Joyce Hooper Corrington
- Cinematographer: John Stephens
- Editor: Buzz Feitshans and Barbara Pokras
- Production Designer: David Nichols
- Music: Gib Guilbeau and Thad Maxwell

With: Barbara Hershey and David Carradine

#### ***Mean Streets*** (Taplin-Perry-Scorsese Productions, 1973)

- Producer: Jonathan Taplin
- Writer: Mardik Martin
- Cinematographer: Kent Wakeford
- Editor: Sid Levin
- Production Designer: David Nichols

With: Robert DeNiro and Harvey Keitel

## Session 2: Wednesday, May 27

#### ***Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*** (Warner Bros., 1974)

- Producer: Audrey Maas, Sandra Weintraub Roland and David Susskind
- Writer: Robert Getchell
- Cinematographer: Kent Wakeford
- Editor: Marcia Lucas
- Production Designer: Toby Carr Rafelson
- Costumes: Robert Kalloch
- Music: Dick LaSalle

With: Ellen Burstyn and Kris Kristofferson

## Session 3: Monday, June 1

### II. On the map...

#### ***Taxi Driver*** (Columbia Pictures, 1976)

- Producers: Julia Phillips and Michael Phillips
- Writer: Paul Schrader
- Cinematographer: Michael Chapman
- Editor: Tom Rolf, Melvin Shapiro, and Marcia Lucas
- Art Director: Charles Rosen
- Music: Bernard Herrmann

With: Robert DeNiro, Cybill Shepherd, Jodie Foster, and Harvey Keitel

## **Session 4: Wednesday, June 3**

### ***New York, New York* (United Artists, 1977)**

- Producer: Irwin Winkler, Robert Chartoff, and Gene Kirkwood
- Writers: Earl Mac Rauch and Mardik Martin
- Cinematographer: Laszlo Kovacs
- Editors: Tom Rolf, David Ramirez, and Bert Lovitt
- Production Designer: Boris Leven
- Music: John Kander and Fred Ebb
- Choreographer: Ron Field

With: Robert DeNiro and Liza Minnelli

## **Session 5: Monday, June 8**

### **III. Recharging**

### ***Raging Bull* (United Artists, 1980)**

- Producer: Robert Chartoff and Irwin Winkler
- Writer: Mardik Martin, from the book by Joseph Carter and Jake LaMotta
- Cinematographer: Michale Chapman
- Editor: Thelma Schoonmaker
- Production Designer: Bill Kenney and Gene Rudolf
- Music: Robbie Robertson

With: Robert DeNiro and Joe Pesci

## **Session 6: Wednesday, June 10**

### ***The King of Comedy* (20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, 1983)**

- Producer: Arnon Milchan
- Cinematographer: Fred Schuler
- Editor: Thelma Schoonmaker
- Art Director: Lawrence Miller
- Costumes: Richard Bruno
- Music: Robbie Robertson

With: Robert DeNiro and Jerry Lewis

### ***After Hours* (Warner Bros., 1985)**

- Producers: Amy Robinson Griffin Dunne, Robert F. Colesberry
- Writer: Joseph Minion
- Cinematographer: Michael Ballhaus
- Editor: Thelma Schoonmaker
- Production Designer: Jeffrey Townsend
- Music: Howard Shore

With: Griffin Dunne and Rosanna Arquette

## **Session 7: Monday, June 15**

### ***The Last Temptation of Christ* (Universal, 1988)**

- Producer: Barbara De Fina
- Writer: Paul Scrader, from the book by Nikos Kazantzakis
- Cinematographer: Michael Ballhaus
- Editor: Thelma Schoonmaker
- Production Designer: John Beard
- Music: Peter Gabriel

With: William Dafoe, Harvey Keitel and Barbara Hershey

## **Session 8: Wednesday, June 17**

### ***Goodfellas* (Warner Bros., 1990)**

- Producer: Barbara de Fina and Irwin Winkler
- Writer/Book Author: Nicholas Pileggi
- Cinematographer: Michael Ballhaus
- Editor: Thelma Schoonmaker
- Art Director: Maher Ahmad

With: Robert DeNiro, Ray Liotta and Joe Pesci

## **Session 9: Monday, June 22**

### ***Cape Fear* (Universal, 1991)**

- Producer: Barbara De Fina
- Writer: Wesley Strick, from the book by John D. MacDonald
- Cinematographer: Freddie Francis
- Production Designer: Henry Bumstead
- Music: Bernard Herrmann, adapted by Elmer Bernstein

With: Robert DeNiro, Nick Nolte and Jessica Lange

## **Session 10: Wednesday, June 24**

### ***The Age of Innocence* (Columbia Pictures, 1993)**

- Producer: Barbara de Fina
- Writer: Jay Cocks, from the book by Edith Wharton
- Cinematographer: Michael Ballhaus
- Editor: Thelma Schoonmaker
- Production Designer: Dante Ferretti
- Music: Elmer Bernstein

With: Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer and Winona Ryder

## **Session 11: Monday, June 29**

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### ***Casino*** (Universal, 1995)

- Producer: Barbara de Fina
- Writer/Book Author: Nicholas Pileggi
- Cinematographer: Philip Pfeiffer, Robert Richardson and Newton Thomas Sigel
- Editor: Thelma Schoonmaker
- Art Director: Dante Ferretti
- Costumes: John Dunn

With: Robert DeNiro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci



## **Bibliography**

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