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**Stevenson University**  
**FIVTH402-ON1, Spring 2015**  
**Special Topic - Emerging Trends**  
**Mondays 1-3:50pm in SD122**

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tue 10am-12pm, Wed 1-4pm, Thurs 10am-12pm, or by appt.

**SPECIAL TOPIC: Emerging Trends in Digital Media and Film**

**CLASS SYLLABUS:** (subject to change)

Wk	Date	Class	Reading, Work, etc
1	1/26	<b>Introduction to Course + SXSW Festival:</b> What to expect. Watch <i>And Uneasy Lies the Mind</i> (SXSW feature shot on iPhone)	Read Obst, Scenes 1-3 & watch SXSW film (see pg. 3 of syllabus)
2	2/2	<b>Former SXSW Movies, Part 1:</b> Oral presentation on film you watched, with clips	Read Obst, Scenes 4-6 & research SXSW 2015 film lineup (TBA 2/3)
3	2/9	<b>SXSW 2015, Part 1:</b> Oral presentation (with visual support) on YOUR 2015 film choices	Read Obst, Scenes 7-8 + Epilogue & watch another SXSW film
4	2/16	<b>Former SXSW Movies, Part 2:</b> Oral presentation on film you watched, with clips	Read Curtin: "Studios" & research SXSW 2015 interactive/mobile tech
5	2/23	<b>SXSW 2015, Part 2:</b> Oral presentation (with visual support) on favorite technologies	Read Curtin: "Upstarts" & watch another SXSW film
6	3/2	<b>Former SXSW Movies, Part 3:</b> Oral presentation on film you watched, with clips	Read Curtin: "Creatives" + design your SXSW 2015 schedule
7	3/9	<b>SXSW 2015, Part 3:</b> Oral presentation (with visual support) on YOUR 2015 schedule	Get ready for - and go on - SXSW 2015 trip!
8	3/16	<b>SPRING BREAK - @ SXSW FESTIVAL!</b>	
9	3/23	<b>SXSW Trip Recap:</b> Now that we're back, what are your immediate takeaways?	Work on SXSW 2015 Reports
10	3/30	<b>NO CLASS - work on report</b>	Work on SXSW 2015 Reports
11	4/6	<b>NO CLASS - work on report</b>	Work on SXSW 2015 Reports
12	4/13	<b>SXSW Reports, Part 1:</b> Oral presentation (with visual support) of your SXSW Reports	Work on Emerging Media presentation
13	4/20	<b>SXSW Reports, Part 2:</b> Oral presentation (with visual support) of your SXSW Reports	Work on Emerging Media presentation
14	4/27	<b>SXSW Reports, Part 3:</b> Oral presentation (with visual support) of your SXSW Reports	Work on Emerging Media presentation
15	5/4	<b>Emerging Media Presentations:</b> Present your Emerging Media presentations	
16	5/11	<b>- FINAL EXAM SLOT (as needed) - 1-3pm - SD122 -</b>	

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Offers different courses each semester in film, video, and theatre, which further examine different topics, not covered in the required courses. Some examples of the offerings are *Sound Design*, *Advanced Improvisation*, *Set Design*, *Films of Alfred Hitchcock*, *Advanced Movement and Voice*, and *Women in Film*.

**COURSE FORMAT and OBJECTIVES:**

What is film? What is digital media? What is transmedia? How do you watch your moving image content: in theaters, on a television, on a computer, on a smartphone or tablet? In this course, students will study the current state of digital media production and how it relates to both contemporary storytelling trends in filmmaking and/or transmedia and to the business realities of moving-image distribution. As part of this course, students will travel to the SXSW Festival (one of America's premier annual media showcases, which includes Film, Interactive Media and Music) in Austin, Texas, from March 14-21, 2015 (Stevenson's Spring Break), to get a first-hand look at the state of the industry. You may not enroll in this course unless you have purchased a SXSW badge and reserved a spot in our room and travel package.

This course will immerse students (and the instructor) in the world of emerging media and filmmaking trends, as they are represented at SXSW. As such, the portion of the course (weeks 1-7) that takes place before the trip will consist primarily of research and preparation for that trip, while the portion of the course (weeks 9-15) that takes place after the trip will consist of reactions to and presentations about that trip.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain, in depth, the work of specific directors, major movements, or emerging trends
2. Point out the value and importance of a director, a movement, or an emerging trend
3. Apply filmmaking strategies relevant to the given topic in his or her own work
4. Summarize topic relative to current film theories and practices

In general, classes will consist of lectures, film and clip screenings, oral presentations by students, as well as discussions of the weekly required readings. All films screened in class are considered required texts.

\*\*\*Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during class & screenings\*\*\*  
\*\*\*Private conversations, texting, etc., will NOT be tolerated in class or screenings\*\*\*

**Disability Services**

The Office of Academic Support facilitates equal access for every student who self-identifies as having a disability. If you are a student with a disability who needs accommodations in this class, please contact the Director of Disability Services in Knott Hall, Room 203 on the Greenspring Campus, or at (443) 334-2939. Once accommodations are authorized by OAS, please provide me with your approved accommodations memo as soon as possible. Accommodations are not retroactive.

**Required Resources:**

- Curtin, Michael & Jennifer Holt & Kevin Sanson, Editors: *Distribution Revolution: Conversations about the Digital Future of Film and Television*. University of California Press, 2014.
- Obst, Lynda: *Sleepless in Hollywood: Tales from the New Abnormal in the Movie Business*. Simon & Schuster, Reprint Edition, 2014.
- All films & clips viewed in class, plus the film(s) you choose to watch for your assignments.

**SXSW Films/TV shows on reserve at OM library - for assignments:**

*12 O'Clock Boys*  
*Before Midnight*  
*Before Sunrise*  
*Before Sunset*  
*Beginners*  
*Big Ass Spider!*  
*Boyhood*  
*Bridesmaids*  
*Cesar Chavez*  
*Chasing Ice*  
*Compliance*  
*DamNation*  
*Don Jon*  
*Foo Fighters: Back and Forth*  
*Frank*  
*Gayby*  
*Girls* (TV Series - Season 1)  
*God Bless America*  
*Grand Budapest Hotel, The*  
*Greatest Movie Ever Sold, The*  
*Hellion*  
*I Am Divine*  
*Insidious*  
*Joe*  
*Lovely Molly*  
*Monsters*  
*Mud*  
*Muscle Shoals*  
*Penny Dreadful* (TV Series - Season 1)  
*People Vs George Lucas, The*  
*Ping Pong Summer*  
*Putty Hill*  
*Rewind This!*  
*Road to Nowhere*  
*Runaways, The*  
*Safety Not Guaranteed*

*Septien*  
*Short Term 12*  
*Sleepwalk with Me*  
*Space Station 76*  
*Spectacular Now, The*  
*Tiny Furniture*  
*Upstream Color*  
*Winter's Bone*

**Select Recommended Online Resources (not an exclusive list):**

<http://sxsw.com>

<http://www.uneasyliestthemind.com>

<http://venturebeat.com/2015/01/11/9-media-tech-predictions-to-watch-for-in-2015/>

<http://tribecafilm.com/stories/we-asked-the-tff2014-filmmakers-new-filmmaking-technology>

<http://www.lightiron.com/about/news/2014-nab-show-technology-summit-cinema-celebrates-filmmaking-innovation-see-more>

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/12/09/tech/innovation/virtual-reality-sundance-2015/>

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/13.7/2014/10/07/354243631/ever-changing-technology-challenges-filmmakers>

<https://vine.co>

<http://1secondeveryday.com>

<http://www.interactivemedialab.com/>

<http://www.howdesign.com/best-interactive-design-web-and-media/>

**Academic Support:**

- In addition to meeting with me during my office hours, the following resources are available for additional academic support.
- The Academic Link, located in KH 201(GR) or in CA 249 (OM), provides free tutoring in courses for which tutors are available. If you are having difficulty understanding the material, seek help immediately. Tutoring often makes the difference in a student's grade.
- Smarthinking, providing free online tutoring 24 hours of every day in select courses, is available by logging onto Smarthinking under My SU Quicklinks.
- For more information visit <https://now.stevenson.edu/depts/academiclink/>

**Graded Assignments/Tests:**

I. Class/SXSW Participation: **40%**

This includes in-class discussion of films, technologies and readings, as well as basic attendance. It also includes attendance on our SXSW trip (the majority of this grade - missing that trip would make it impossible to pass the class). You are expected to be in class at *all times*. If you miss class without a documented excuse, I will expect you to make up the work and notes missed, *on your own*. If you have a valid, documented excuse, then I will be happy to help you make up the work missed. Excessive and frequent lateness to class will result in a lower class-participation grade, as will disruptive in-class behavior. Disruptive and irresponsible behavior - as per Stevenson's Student Handbook - at the SXSW festival will also result in a reduced participation grade.

II. Reading Summary Quizzes: **10%**

These are weekly short-answer quizzes, when there is reading, to test your understanding of the assigned book/chapters. If you miss class without a documented excuse, you will be unable to make up the missed quiz, and will receive a zero for that week's quiz grade.

III. Former SXSW Movie Presentation #1: due **February 2** **2.5%**

This is an up-to-15-minute presentation (it can be shorter, if comprehensive at that shorter length), complete with clips (and any other visual materials you wish to use), on a movie (or TV show) from a previous SXSW festival that you will have chosen from the list on page 3 of this syllabus. Explain: why you chose the film; what, if anything, was innovative about it; what category of that year's festival it fell under (this means you will have to do research); what awards, if any, it won, at SXSW or elsewhere; and what life, if any, it had before or after the SXSW festival. Bring the DVD from the library to class, as using online clips is never as smooth as using a disc, which is why I have these movies on reserve for us (purchased by the library just for us).

IV. SXSW 2015 Lineup Presentation #1: due **February 9** **2.5%**

This is an up-to-15-minute presentation (it can be shorter, if comprehensive at that shorter length), complete with any visual materials you wish to use, explaining which films in the 2015 SXSW lineup (to be announced on 2/3) you most want to see, and why. Discuss, as well, which keynote speakers, networking events, and any other non-screening events (to which you will have access with your film badge) look most interesting, and why.

V. Former SXSW Movie Presentation #2: due **February 16** **2.5%**

The parameters of this assignment are identical to those of "Former SXSW Movie Presentation #1." Just choose a different movie/TV show.

VI. SXSW 2015 Lineup Presentation #2: due **February 23** **2.5%**

This is an up-to-15-minute presentation (it can be shorter, if comprehensive at that shorter length), complete with any visual materials you wish to use, explaining which interactive/mobile technologies to-be-showcased at the 2015 SXSW Festival look most interesting to you, and why. **For those of you who do not have smartphones, or who**

**would prefer to work on iPads, we have 3 Departmental iPads for use during this class and during the SXSW Festival, and you may use these for and during your presentations.**

VII. Former SXSW Movie Presentation #3: due **March 2** **5%**

The parameters of this assignment are identical to those of "Former SXSW Movie Presentations: #1 and #2. Just choose a different movie/TV show.

VIII. SXSW 2015 Lineup Presentation #3: due **March 9** **5%**

This is an up-to-15-minute presentation (it can be shorter, if comprehensive at that shorter length), complete with any visual materials you wish to use, of what YOUR schedule will be like during the SXSW 2015 Festival. Be rigorously specific. Include time in the Expo Hall, at networking events, speaker events, etc. Include your proposed meal times and how you plan to get from venue to venue (timing is everything!). The more prepared you are ahead of time, the better you will react to unforeseen events.

IX. SXSW 2015 Reports: due on **April 13, 20 and 27** **15%**

This is an up-to-45-minute presentation (it can be shorter, if comprehensive at that shorter length), complete with any visual materials you wish to use, of what you did at the 2015 SXSW Festival. Use photos you took, research you have done about the films you watched, speaker events you attended, technologies and equipment you learned about in the Expo Hall, etc. Did any of the films you watched win awards? What did you think of that? Are any of the films going to other film festivals, such as this year's Maryland Film Festivals? Did you meet any of the filmmakers? Were any of the films representative of emerging trends in filmmaking and/or distribution? How did SXSW work for you as a networking opportunity? Compare your notes to those of your classmates.

X. Emerging Media Presentations: due on **May 4** **15%**

This is an up-to-10-minute interactive/mobile/video presentation, using a technology you have learned about during this semester, which demonstrates the possibilities of that technology while also telling a story about your experience at SXSW. You will be graded on how well you use this new digital technology and how well you tell your story. As before, you may use the Department's iPads.

**Grading System:**

Grades will be assigned as follows, according to the Stevenson 2008-2009 Catalog:

93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
60-66%	D
0-59%	F