

**Hiram College  
Economics in film  
Spring 2013**

**Class:** M-TH 9-12.

**Text:** no textbook has been assigned. Notes will be provided in class.

**Course description:** films have been and will continue to be an influential and attractive media that can certainly be used to learn economics while having fun. Movies like Motorcycle Diaries, Germinal, Erin Brockovich and Bread and Roses among many others touch simultaneously many important social, political and economic issues including discrimination, public policy, immigration, labor movements, poverty, inequality and exploitation among others. In the movies economics comes to life motivating productive interdisciplinary discussions enriched by the historical, political and social issues of the time.

**Objectives:** to provide students with analytical tools to analyze the content of movies from an economic perspective but contextualized by political, social and historical factors. This approach should help the students understand how societies evolve through time shaped by policy, social structures and political struggle.

**Grades:** Students can choose to work alone or in groups. Your grade will be determined by the quality of your work in class and your presentations. Coming to class prepared to work and participate, substantially, is crucial to earn a good grade in this course.

**Substantial participation:** I expect you to participate actively. You need to show evidence that you are trying to incorporate the class discussions into the analysis of films. I will ask questions during my presentations and during the films to evaluate your level of engagement with the materials.

**Presentations:** Every group will present three reports that will include scenes from a movie or movies not shown in class, and will show how the presenter(s) analyze the scenes with the concepts and ideas introduced during that week in class. The class period selected for the reports will be equally divided among the presenters, therefore each group will have to introduce materials and discussions for the allotted time and be ready to answer questions.

**Tentative outline:**

Every class session lasts three hours. During the first hour, roughly, I will discuss concepts and suggest some readings to help support the lectures. The last two hours are reserved to a movie.

The following is a tentative list of the movies we are going to see; order may vary:

1. Mondays in the sun
2. A day without a Mexican
3. The Matrix
4. Stand and Deliver
5. Sleeper
6. El Norte
7. Artificial Intelligence

8. Under the same moon
9. Motorcycle Diaries
10. A place in the world.

## **Other important policies**

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

Hiram College is committed to equality of opportunity and does not discriminate in its educational and admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability. The College will not tolerate harassment, prejudice, abuse, or discrimination by or of any of its students, faculty, or staff.

### **Communication with Parents**

Hiram College encourages students to speak directly with faculty regarding course content and performance. Students are also encouraged to speak with their parent(s), particularly if the student remains dependent on parent(s) for financial support. Faculty may choose to speak with parents, but generally, faculty will require a written FERPA waiver to be signed by the student before speaking with a student's parent. FERPA waivers may be found at the Registrar's Office in Teachout-Price, or online at <http://www.hiram.edu/current/offices/registrar/ferpa2.html>.

### **Disability Support Services for Students with Special Needs**

To arrange for support services, a student must submit appropriate, current, detailed documentation to the Director of Counseling, Health and Disability Services (CHDS) together with the completed online service request form LINK. After verification and with the student's consent, the Director of CHDS will notify the student's faculty of the appropriate accommodation services. Faculty are not permitted to make accommodations without the authorization of the Director of CHDS. Hiram College adheres to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to provide requested services for disabled students as specified by the requirements contained in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policy <http://www.hiram.edu/current/offices/registrar/ferpa2.html> guidelines. The Director CHDS is located in the Julia Church Health Center (330-569-5952) P.O. Box 67, Hiram OH 44234.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

There are many forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, the giving or receiving of help in any form on an examination, the sale or purchase of papers and test materials, the abuse of computer privileges and regulations, the misuse or abuse of online or library resources, and any other action which debases the soundness of the educational process. Any student who violates the integrity of the academic process will be subject to punishment, including possible dismissal from the College.

Hiram College believes that the development of intellectual honesty is at the heart of a college education. The process of education is severely compromised if we cannot depend on the academic integrity of each member of the community. Moreover, the principles of academic honesty are aligned closely with the principles of good scholarship and research, principles of critical thinking and reasoning, and the standards of professional ethics. Thus, students who fail to practice academic honesty not only risk losing

the trust of the academic community, they also fail to develop the most essential skills and abilities that characterize a college graduate.

Faculty members, librarians and staff are expected to report all instances of academic dishonesty to the Associate Dean of the College, who will provide advice on an appropriate action.

### **Grade Appeals**

Academic performance is to be judged solely by individual faculty members. Grades are not subject to alteration based on the amount of effort exerted by, or past performance of, a student. Faculty are expected to provide performance criteria (such as attendance policies, deadlines, assignment expectations, etc.) as part of course syllabi or distributed assignments, but assessment of student performance in meeting said criteria is for the individual faculty member to determine. If a student believes that criteria were ignored, or that work submitted was not included, the student should consult the “Student Academic Responsibilities and Performance” section of the Hiram College Catalog at [home.hiram.edu](http://home.hiram.edu). Therein is provided the process for grade appeals. Please note that all grade appeals reside wholly with the professor alone until the official posting of grades by the Registrar.

**Disclaimer:** The information provided above does not constitute a contract and could be modified. However, if I choose to do so, I will alert you and provide you with all relevant and important information regarding the change.