

GEO 365/ENS 300 ENVIRONMENT AND FILM
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY - COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

In-Person: Mondays 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm
239 Whitehall Classroom Bldg

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Zoom office hours by appt:
11 am - 2 pm Wednesdays
11 am - 2 pm Thursdays
All appts can be made here:
<https://calendly.com/jastallins>

Class home page: Available in Canvas and <http://www.uky.edu/~jast239/courses/filmenv/film.html>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Cinema is a geographic art, a way of making the world known. In this course, we employ film to understand how the notion of environment is conceptualized and studied. We employ ideas from geographic thought to understand the interrelationships between environment and the people and objects in them. While environment often signifies nature, it can also encompass the social, the imaginary, or the digital. There are environments of fear, places that feel like home, and private versus public spaces. Comprehension of the processes and the forms, or spatialities, of these many environments is necessary if our aim is to better understand them and our places in them. This is true whether the spaces and places that comprise environments are defined in terms of ecology and sustainability, or along other dimensions, such as the legal, the spiritual, the economic, or the informational. Where we get our information on the internet, our economic mobility across absolute and relative space, and even the way in which belief shapes where and how we live – all convey the dynamism of the notion of environment. Although the focus of this course is on geographic thought, film-making and film viewing inevitably convey the malleability and complexity of space and place that we explore in this class.

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

Describe the different ways in which the environment can be conceptualized
Explain how space and place are produced and how they in turn are also productive of meaning
Give examples of the role film plays in shaping our environmental imaginaries
Describe how identity, space, and place are intertwined

Required materials. There is no required textbook for the class. However, because films will be assigned for viewing outside of class time, students will be required to rent online videos if they are not free to stream. The total cost for video rentals is estimated to be \$75 depending upon whether or not students already have monthly rental accounts with online streaming sites. Most of the videos are accessible through iTunes, Netflix, YouTube, or Amazon. It is possible that some films may become unavailable due to the changing nature of digital copyrights and streaming services. In these cases, another film will be assigned to replace the one no longer available.

COURSE CONTENT:

Weekly in-class quizzes	120 points (12 at 10 points each)	≈ 20%
Midterm	100 points	≈ 20%
Final exam	100 points	≈ 20%
Film festival	2 at 50 points	≈ 20%
Attendance	130 points (13 at 10 points each)	≈ 20%
Total points	550	

Course Assignments and Activities

Film viewings: Students will watch one film each class meeting, and they are required to watch one film each week at home. Films should be viewed at home under conditions that will not interrupt or distract you from the content. In other words, watching these films at a Friday night social gathering may have the unfortunate result of making the film seem quite different from how you may have otherwise received it if viewing it by yourself.

Quizzes. At each weekly class meeting you will be given a short in-class quiz. It will cover the film you were expected to watch at home before coming to class.

Midterm and final exams. The midterm and the final will cover only the weekly term lists. The final exam will be given during exam week. It is not cumulative. It covers only the terms presented after the midterm. You will be asked to define a subset of the terms we have reviewed each week

Film festival project. Individually, students will assemble a competitive film festival of 13 films, one for each week. Each film will correspond with our weekly themes. Film festivals will be curated online through Google Blogger using a standardized format. Students are expected to read film reviews and choose films with some forethought. Students will be expected to share their blogs with the class orally. Full instructions will be presented in class.

Grading Scale:

A	(100 - 90%)	Sample grade calculation
B	(80 - 89%)	When you add up all of your quizzes, you have a total of 105 points out of a possible 120. You make an 85 on the midterm and an 87 on the final exam. You
C	(70 - 79%)	make a 40/50 and a 45/50 on your film festival project. You did not miss a
D	(60 - 69%)	single day of class so your attendance grade is 130 points. Thus your final grade
E	(<59%)	tally is: $105 + 85 + 87 + 40 + 45 + 130 = 502$ points out of a possible 550. Your final grade would be 502/550 points or 91.27%.

Mid-term grades:

Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.uky.edu/registrar/content/academic-calendar>)

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance. Attendance will be taken each class meeting.

Prep week and reading days. Per Senate Rules 5.2.5.6, the last week of instruction of a regular semester is termed "Prep Week." These rules permit continuing into Prep Week regularly assigned graded homework that was announced in the class syllabus. Class participation and attendance grades are permitted during Prep Week. However, no written examinations, including final examinations, may be scheduled during Prep Week. No quizzes may be given during Prep Week. No project/lab practicals/paper/presentation deadlines or oral/listening examinations may fall during the Prep Week unless it was scheduled in the syllabus and the course has no final examination (or assignment that acts as a final examination) scheduled during finals week.

The Thursday and Friday of Prep Week are study days (i.e. "Reading Days"). There cannot be any required "interactions" on a Reading Day. "Interactions" include participation in an in-class or online discussion, attendance at a guest lecture, or uploading an assignment. See Senate Rules 9.1 for a more complete description of required interactions.

Communication between teachers and students. Use the email addresses provided at the top of the syllabus to contact your instructors: ja.stallins@uky.edu. Identify yourself by full name in all emails. You will receive emails from the instructors throughout the semester. Please check your email daily.

Excused absences and acceptable excuses. Excused Absences: Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.1 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) significant illness, (b) death of a family member, (c) trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, (d) major religious holidays, (e) interviews for graduate/professional school or full-time employment post-graduation, and (f) other circumstances found to fit "reasonable cause for nonattendance" by the instructor of record. Students should notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible.

If a course syllabus requires specific interactions (e.g., with the instructor or other students), in situations where a student's total excused absences exceed 1/5 (or 20%) of the required interactions for the course, the student shall have the right to request and receive a "W," or the Instructor of Record may award an "I" for the course if the student declines a "W." (Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.3.1)

Job fairs, family weddings, possession of airline tickets, and Greek events do not qualify as excused absences. Students with chronic medical conditions that jeopardize attendance must go through UK Disability Services to have these absences documented. In other words, if you inform me you will be missing a lot of classes due to a mental or physical health condition, you will have to get this approved through UK Disability Services for these absences to be considered excused.

Religious observances. Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays. Senate Rules 5.2.5.2.1(4) requires faculty to include any notification requirements within the syllabus. If no requirement is specified, two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable and should not be given any later.

Covid policies. Excused absences for the Fall 2021 semester include an excuse from required in-person interactions if the student has been directed to self-quarantine by the University (including its app), a medical professional, public health professional, or government official.

Because masks are required to be worn this is a campus policy. If a student refuses to wear a mask they are failing to comply with a University policy and therefore [they] can be sent to the Office of Student Conduct. For more information, visit:

<https://www.uky.edu/coronavirus/students/student-code-conduct-faqs>

The instructor reserves the right to change course policies and due dates in the event that Covid requires an alteration to the format in which the course was originally designed to be delivered.

Verification of absences. Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. Senate Rule 5.2.5.2.1 states that faculty have the right to request appropriate verification when students claim an excused absence due to: significant illness; death in the household, trips for classes, trips sponsored by an educational unit and trips for participation related to intercollegiate athletic events; and interviews for full-time job opportunities after graduation and interviews for graduate and professional school. (Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.)

University Health Services (UHS) recognizes the important public health and policy reasons why a sufficiently ill student ought to be absent from class and also not make a visit to UHS. UHS provides in this circumstance an "Explanatory Statement of Absence from Class" that students may complete and submit to the Instructor to document an excused absence from class. This is a UHS "Tier 1" document. Faculty will decide whether this Tier 1 document is acceptable as "appropriate verification" of the student's illness. Whether a Tier 1 excuse is acceptable will be decided in each individual circumstance, with the final decision contingent upon the overall attendance record for the semester.

The UHS Tier 2 document is an email sent to the student, at the student's request. The email confirms that the student made a medical visit to UHS. In order to provide the Instructor with verification of an illness, the student will forward the email from UHS to the Instructor of Record. The forwarded Tier 2 email informs the faculty member that she or he may confirm the UHS visit by emailing the identified sender of the confirming email and request that the sender verify the authenticity of the Tier 2 email sent to the student. Whether a Tier 2 excuse is acceptable will be decided in each individual circumstance, with the final decision contingent upon the overall attendance record for the semester.

The Tier 3 document emailed to students "states any applicable restrictions [on the student] based on illness or injury." Such a restriction may be that the student must be absent from class for a defined number of days. Whether a Tier 3 excuse is acceptable will be decided in each individual circumstance, with the final decision contingent upon overall attendance record for the semester.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 University Health Service (UHS) forms for excused absences include both the date the student was seen in the clinic as well as the date the student made an appointment.

Academic integrity. All work on quizzes and tests is expected to be done independently. Per university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty.

All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases

where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

Plagiarism (Senate Rules 6.3.1). When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be, except under specific circumstances (e.g. Writing Center review, peer review) allowed by the Instructor of Record or that person's designee. Plagiarism may also include double submission, self-plagiarism, or unauthorized resubmission of one's own work, as defined by the instructor.

Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, except where prohibited by the Instructor of Record (e.g. individual take-home exams). However, the actual work must be done by the student, and the student alone, unless collaboration is allowed by the Instructor of Record (e.g. group projects).

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Cheating (Senate Rules 6.3.2). is defined by its general usage. It includes, but is not limited to, the wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding himself/herself or another on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. The fact that a student could not have benefited from an action is not by itself proof that the action does not constitute cheating. Any question of definition shall be referred to the University Appeals Board.

Misuse of academic records (Senate Rules 6.3.3). Maintaining the integrity, accuracy, and appropriate privacy of student academic records is an essential administrative function of the University and a basic protection of all students. Accordingly, the actual or attempted falsification, theft, misrepresentation or other alteration or misuse of any official academic record of the University, specifically including knowingly having unauthorized access to such records or the unauthorized disclosure of information contained in such records, is a serious academic offense. As used in this context, "academic record" includes all paper and electronic versions of the partial or complete permanent academic record, all official and unofficial academic transcripts, application documents and admission credentials, and all academic record transaction documents. The minimum sanction for falsification, including the omission of information, or attempted falsification or other misuse of academic records as described in this section is suspension for one semester.

Make-up work. Students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The instructor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due

to the excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred. The instructor shall provide the student with an opportunity to make up the graded work and may not simply calculate the student's grade on the basis of the other course requirements, unless the student agrees in writing. According to Senate Rules, if a student adds a class after the first day of classes and misses graded work, the instructor must provide the student with an opportunity to make up any graded work.

Accommodations due to disability. In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please inform your instructor as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in a course, you must provide your instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at (859) 257-2754, via email (drc@uky.edu) or visit their website (<https://uky.edu/DisabilityResourceCenter>). DRC accommodations are not retroactive and should therefore be established with the DRC as early in the semester as is feasible.

Zoom policies. Students are to remain muted. Avoid the use of distracting photos and images on your Zoom account. Use your full student name, instead of nicknames, initials, first name only, phone name, or ID numbers. If you are not identifiable, then you may be kicked out of the Zoom.

Title IV Compliance Requirements. Federal regulation mandates that federal financial aid funds (Title IV) may only be disbursed to students who are actually enrolled and engaged in coursework. This regulation mandates that institutions provide evidence of engagement early in each semester. Failure to provide evidence includes sizeable fees and fines for the university. To comply with this mandate, all instructors of undergraduate and graduate courses (including lab courses), independent studies, online courses, and research credit) will be required to confirm student attendance or engagement in classes during the two-week period following the last day to add a class. For the Fall 2019 semester, the last day to add a course is August 30. To comply with the new Title IV regulation, faculty will be required to report students for non-attendance/nonparticipation/non-engagement through the class roster in MyUK. Once a student is marked for nonattendance/non-participation/non-engagement in the class roster, the student will be dropped from the class and from Canvas with a grade symbol "NA". If an undergraduate student drops below full-time, financial aid disbursement will be reduced. Courses dropped for non-attendance/non-participation/nonengagement will not appear on the student's transcript.

Non-discrimination and Title IX policy. In accordance with federal law, UK is committed to providing a safe learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. The University maintains a comprehensive program which protects all members from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. For complete information about UK's prohibition on discrimination and harassment on aspects such as race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, and sexual orientation, please see the electronic version of UK's Administrative Regulation 6:1 ("Policy on Discrimination and Harassment") (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/ar6-1>). In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment in which one act is severe enough to create a hostile environment based on sex and is prohibited between members of the University community and shall not be tolerated. For more details, please see the electronic version of Administrative Regulations 6:2 ("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation") (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/ar6-2>). Complaints regarding

violations of University policies on discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct are handled by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (Institutional Equity), which is located in 13 Main Building and can be reached by phone at (859) 257-8927. You can also visit Institutional Equity's website (<https://www.uky.edu/eeo>).

Faculty members are obligated to forward any report made by a student related to discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct to the Office of Institutional Equity. Students can confidentially report alleged incidences through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center (<https://www.uky.edu/vipcenter>), Counseling Center (<https://www.uky.edu/counselingcenter>), or University Health Service (<https://ukhealthcare.uky.edu/university-health-service/student-health>).

Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The University of Kentucky is committed to our core values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and human dignity, and a sense of community (Governing Regulations XIV). We acknowledge and respect the seen and unseen diverse identities and experiences of all members of the university community (<https://www.uky.edu/regs/gr14>). These identities include but are not limited to those based on race, ethnicity, gender identity and expressions, ideas and perspectives, religious and cultural beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, age, ability, and socioeconomic status. We are committed to equity and justice and providing a learning and engaging community in which every member is engaged, heard, and valued.

We strive to rectify and change behavior that is inconsistent with our principles and commitment to creating a safe, equitable, and anti-racist environment. If students encounter such behavior in a course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor of record or the college's diversity officer, who is charged with addressing concerns about diversity, equity, and inclusiveness (<https://uky.edu/inclusiveexcellence/college-diversity-inclusion-officers>). Students may also contact a faculty member within the department, program director, the director of undergraduate or graduate studies, the department chair, or the dean. To submit an official report of bias, hatred, racism, or identity-based violence, visit the Bias Incident Support Services website (<https://www.uky.edu/biss/report-bias-incident>).

Student resources. At UK, Academic Ombud Services (<https://www.uky.edu/ombud/>) is responsible for resolving academic related problems and conflicts for which established procedures have not yielded a satisfactory solution or for which no established procedure exists. Academic Ombud Services is not intended to supplant the normal processes of resolution (contacting the course instructor, department chair, director of undergraduate/graduate studies, and/or associate dean). In cases where there is a clear need to achieve a solution more quickly than normal procedures provide, the Ombud may seek to expedite the process. The two major areas of activity for Academic Ombud Services involve student academic rights and violations of academic integrity. The primary task of Academic Ombud Services is to ensure fair policies, processes, and procedures, as related in the Senate Rules, are equitably implemented. Thus, Academic Ombud Services is a neutral office working as an advocate for fairness and equity.

The instructor is required to send alerts for students who are failing the course, not attending, or exhibiting behaviors that warrant a response from UK to insure their safety and the safety of those around them. Please visit <http://www.uky.edu/studentacademicsupport/alert-process> for an explanation of how these alerts work. Students should report any disruptive, unsafe, or threatening behaviors of others in the classroom immediately.

A wide variety of resources are available to students at UK, including many that pertain to the health, well-being and welfare of students. Please visit:

<https://www.uky.edu/universitysenate/student-resources>

Class recording. The University of Kentucky Student Code of Conduct defines Invasion of Privacy as using electronic or other devices to make a photographic, audio, or video record of any person without their prior knowledge or consent when such a recording is likely to cause injury or distress.

All video and audio recordings of lecturers and class meetings, provided by the instructors, are for educational use by students in this class only. They are available only through the Canvas shell for this course and are not to be copied, shared, or redistributed.

As addressed in the Student Code of Conduct, students are expected to follow appropriate university policies and maintain the security of linkblue accounts used to access recorded class materials. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not enrolled in the class, or uploaded to other online environments.

If the instructor or a University of Kentucky office plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. In anticipation of such cases, students may be asked to complete an "authorization of use" form by a faculty member.

Video and audio recordings by students are not permitted during the class unless the student has received prior permission from the instructor. Any sharing, distribution, and or uploading of these recordings outside of the parameters of the class is prohibited. Students with specific recording accommodations approved by the Disability Resource Center should present their official documentation to the instructor.

Intellectual property. All content for this course, including handouts, assignments, and lectures are the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be reproduced or sold without prior permission from the instructors. A student may use the material for reasonable educational and professional purposes extending beyond this class, such as studying for a comprehensive or qualifying examination in a degree program, preparing for a professional or certification examination, or to assist in fulfilling responsibilities at a job or internship.