

Spokane Falls Community College
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OUTLINE

Prefix and Course Number
Course Title

MUSC 108
Music and Cinema

Last Modified: Summer 2008

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

- Students learn to recognize the various functions of music in film, including popular music and popular song, and how these functions support or do not support the drama on screen.
- Students learn how social, economic and cultural factors played a role in the historical development of film music in America.
- Students aurally identify instruments of the orchestra and their stereo-typical usage, if any, in film.
- Students learn about the major film composers of the various eras.

Course Outline

- I. Course Orientation
 - A. Overview of the class and grading policy
 - B. Explanation of course objectives
- II. A Brief History of Film Music
 - A. The myth of the “silent film”
 - B. The “talkie” and the decline of the silent film
 - C. The Great Depression and migration to Hollywood
 - D. WWII and a wave of immigrant film composers
- III. The Studio System: composer and orchestras for hire
 - A. The Rise of the Studio Orchestra
 - B. Instruments of the Orchestra
 - C. A Change of Culture: Jazz and the Decline of the Studio Orchestra
- IV. The Film Composer
 - A. The functions of music in film
 - B. The musical score (aka underscore) vs. source music
 - C. What kinds of music work in film?
 - D. The temp-track: guideline for composition or mandate?
 - E. Creating a title song or theme song
 - F. The *leitmotiv*: creating characters through music
- V. The Film Scoring Process
 - A. Who’s involved in the decision process?
 - B. Where will the music go?
 - C. Use of pre-existing music
 - D. The cue sheet
 - E. How long does the recording process take?
 - F. Music for movie trailers.
- VI. Popular Music in Film
 - A. The use of popular music in film
 - B. Pop Songs: enhancing the film or enhancing the studio’s pocketbook?

- C. The movie soundtrack recording as a separate musical entity
- VII. *Star Wars* and Beyond: Reviving of the use of the orchestra in film music
- VIII. Becoming a more critical viewer/listener