

**SPECIAL PROBLEMS – NEW MEXICO TRIP**  
**MRTS 5900– SUMMER 3W "MAYMESTER" 2023**  
**Study in America – Media Arts in New Mexico**

**CLASS INFORMATION**

Section - 001

Location:      May 15-20 = Online  
                    May 21 = Travel to New Mexico  
                    May 22-27 = in New Mexico  
                    May 28 = Travel to Texas  
                    May 29-June 2 = Online

Text – None. Online materials and links provided in Canvas

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

MRTS 5900 is a Special Problems course focusing on Media Production in the Southwest, especially New Mexico. Students will learn about the history of film making in this region, genre conventions of films made in these locations, as well as practical film making information about production in these environments. Field trips will include famous film locations, working film studios and sets, and film offices in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

**COURSE GOALS**

- To explore the genre films made in the American Southwest, both current and historical.
- To experience professional film production facilities across the state.
- To view famous film locations and learn the history of films made there.
- To demonstrate knowledge of Southwest film making and genre history.
- To demonstrate knowledge of location film production needs and challenges.

## **COURSE BASICS**

**Structure** – field trips, tours, lectures, class discussion, viewing of films and other videos.

**Attendance** – This class will take place online for Week 1 and 3, and in person in New Mexico during Week 2. Schedule and timing of classes will vary depending on what we are covering and where we are visiting. A certain amount of flexibility is required and should be expected while still completing the assigned tasks by their due dates.

### **Use of electronics**

Assignments requiring a computer will not take place while we are traveling. If you wish to bring your own computer, do so at your own risk. Our insurance covers our equipment and you personally, but not your belongings.

**Assignments** – All assignments are due in Canvas and will be submitted on the assignment page. All assignments are due by the end-of-day on the due date (meaning 11:59pm on the due date) unless otherwise stated in the assignment. All written work must be typed, double-spaced, 12pt font 1 inch margins on all sides. All outside information must be properly cited.

All due dates are end-of-day (11:59pm) in Canvas unless otherwise stated.

Online lessons are asynchronous.

### **WEEK 1 - May 15-20 = Online**

- Topic: Course overview, SW landscape in film
- Screening: *Godless* (7-part Netflix series)
- Reading: [Western Films part 1](#) (read only through "Western Film Roots" section)
- Video: [What Makes a Western Genre Film?](#)
- Assignment: Film Genre Paper – due Wednesday, May 17 – 100 points
- Assignment: Landscape Paper due Friday, May 20 - 100 points

### **Week 2 - May 21-28 - in New Mexico**

- TRAVEL DAY - Sunday, May 21
  - Activities TBD
- TRAVEL DAY - Saturday, June 29

### **WEEK 3 - May 29-June 2 - ONLINE**

- Topic: Trip Follow-Up, Location Scouting and Production
- Reading: [Location Scouting Checklist](#)
- Reading: [Locations Department in Film](#)

- Reading: [\\$10K vs. \\$100K vs. \\$500K: Feature Film Budgets Compared](#)
- Assignment: Final Project due Friday, June 2.

### Assignments

Location/Landscape paper	100
History/Genre paper	100
Final Project - Location/Production presentation	300
<b>TOTAL CLASS POINTS POSSIBLE =</b>	<b>500 POINTS</b>

### UNT Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90+ - The work is consistently outstanding.
B	80+ - The work is consistently strong and occasionally outstanding.
C	70+ - The work is adequate, fulfilling minimum requirements.
D	60+ - The work fails to meet minimum standards.
F	below 60 - The work is incomplete, or evidence of plagiarism.

### Requirements

All assignments are due in Canvas by the end-of-day on the due date (meaning 11:59pm on the due date) unless otherwise stated in the assignment. All written work must be typed, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1 inch margins on all sides. All outside information must be properly cited. No handwritten assignment will be accepted. **YOU MUST DOUBLE CHECK THAT THE ASSIGNMENT UPLOADED PROPERLY**, even if Canvas gives you a submission receipt. If you are unable to upload your assignments to Canvas, you may try emailing it to me or printing a copy and bringing it to class **BEFORE** the deadline.

## **Late Work**

You are allowed ONE late PAPER/PAPERWORK assignments, graded at 80% of the total points. That means a 50 point project that is turned in late is only worth a maximum of 40 points.

## **Participation**

Class participation is part of your final grade; I expect you to participate in all field trips and discussions unless otherwise arranged.

## **Philosophy of Grading**

What I look for and care most about is the obvious thought and energy that goes into your work. Connecting the dots between lessons, readings, and your projects is what this course is all about. Doing literally what is asked for in an assignment usually requires the least amount of effort and care, and it comes across in your work. Putting thought and effort into an assignment also comes across in the work. I am always willing to read first drafts, watch cuts, give notes, or answer questions at any time. I am always frustrated by giving someone a lower grade who says, after the fact, "Well, I wasn't sure exactly what you wanted ..."

## **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas or words as your own. It will not be tolerated. Even when you are paraphrasing, you must give appropriate (and formal) credit to the source of the ideas or the words. Plagiarism will result in a failing course grade