**Course Title:**
The Art of Film
207 Fine Arts as Global Perspective

**Course Description:**
Film expresses the gamut of human expression and experience. Goofy buddy comedies, biopics of famous writers or musicians, painfully honest documentaries, swashbuckling adventures, superhero epics, or trite-but-enjoyable romantic comedies, film reflects who we are, what we value and aspire to, what we may never become. Yet as the audience we may never consciously appreciate or even notice the larger ideas of a film because we are caught up in it. The goal of this course is to pull our eyes from the screen’s spectacle and apply our minds to what a film is actually saying. To achieve this goal we will take a three-part approach: (1) we will cover the history of film as a medium to see its dual identity as popular culture and art (2) we will study screenplays and the films they become to see how words on a page come alive on screen and (3) we will write short screenplays and then shoot and edit them, culminating in the Honors College Short Film Festival where our peers will be able to see our on-screen efforts.

**Readings/Texts:**
*Five Screenplays: with Essays*, William Goldman
*Cinematic Storytelling*, Jennifer Van Sijll
*Save the Cat*, Blake Snyder
*Graphic Storytelling*, Will Eisner
Articles on Learn focusing on craft elements, social responsibility, influence of film.

A variety of films including:
*Pulp Fiction*
*The Princess Bride*
*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*
*Citizen Kane*
*The Bicycle Thief*
*Fight Club*
*Notorious*
And clips from many other selected films.

**Student Requirements:**
2 three-page reaction papers
Oral presentation
6 mini film assignments
Short screenplay (3-5 minutes)
Final short film
About the Instructor:
Jona (rhymes with "Donna") is a graduate of UNM Honors and began teaching here in 2003. She has a BA in English, an MA in Liberal Arts from St. John's College, and is a candidate in the MFA program at IAIA. She has published fiction and nonfiction works in NY Magazine, The Guardian, and on Audible. She’s a huge nerd who has written seven short films and co-created the comic book series *The Wonderverse.*