

University of Calgary  
Department of Communication, Media and Film  
FILM 331-01: *Film Theory to 1950*  
F2022: Sept. 6 – Dec. 7 (excluding Sept. 30, Oct. 10 + Nov. 6-12)  
Screenings: Mondays, 2:00PM - 4:45PM  
Lectures: Wednesdays, 3:00PM - 4:50PM  
In-person, SS203

Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
E-Mail:	lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	See D2L course page
Office Hours:	Mondays, after class; Fridays 1-2PM via zoom. Email to reserve a time.

### Course Description

This course surveys the first broad phase of theoretical writings on cinema, sometimes referred to as 'classical film theory.' As such, we will examine an extensive range of critical and theoretical commentary, engaging with fundamental questions about the film medium: what is the proper material, or 'essence' of cinema? What are its key methods and techniques? Is it an art equal to the other arts? What forms can cinema take, and what are the medium's possibilities? What can be considered the purpose or value of cinema? How do films affect individual viewers and culture at large? By taking this course, students will become familiar with the significant concepts and debates that constitute early film theory, while fulfilling the course objectives outlined below.

### Additional Information

- As a course with a prerequisite (FILM 201), this class assumes and requires your familiarity with **basic film terms**. For your reference, a 6-page *Glossary of Formal Terms* will be provided on the online course page. You will be expected to use this vocabulary correctly in class discussion, written tests, and assignments.
- **Read all course emails** so you don't miss important course info.
- All course components are **in-person** this term. Course lectures + films will **not** be recoded or streamed for later viewing.

### Objectives of the Course

This course has four overlapping aims:

- To become familiar with the core issues of early film theory.
- To become a sophisticated reader, engaging closely and critically with film-theoretical texts.
- To discern relationships between the course readings and the weekly film screenings: what does each text reveal about the other?
- To write clearly and authoritatively about films and film-theoretical issues, and thus to share in ongoing debates about the medium.

### Textbooks and Readings

**Required textbook**, available from the University Bookstore:

*Critical Visions in Film Theory: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Edited by Timothy Corrigan, Patricia White with Meta Mazaj. (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2011). Designated as '**CVFT**' on the course schedule.

**Additional required readings** are posted electronically via D2L: for access, ensure that you have signed into your library account. If you have trouble accessing these materials after following these steps, send me a note ASAP.

### Using the Readings to Generate Discussion

The readings for FILM 331 are often challenging and cannot be mastered quickly or superficially. Please set aside sufficient time to complete this material before class and to reflect upon its content. When you're reading, **highlight the specific words and/or passages in question that seem unusual or difficult** so you can raise these issues in discussion; you might also note some ideas you have about what the text means, or how it relates to the weekly film(s). This is a crucial way to earn **participation** marks: so long as you have completed the assigned reading, all questions are welcome. Other students will have similar questions about the texts and will benefit from hearing yours. With consistent time and effort, completing the readings every week and engaging in discussion about them, the material will become accessible, facilitating your success in the course overall.

**Learning Technologies and Requirements: Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices** This course observes a strict laptop and cell phone policy. Laptops are for note taking only: laptop use for email, unauthorized browsing, etc. during class time will negatively impact your participation grade. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid grade penalties.

### Viewing Requirements + Screening Notes

Students are required to **watch all films** indicated on the course schedule. Once you've watched the weekly film(s), go to the Discussion section of D2L to compose your **weekly screening note**. There will be instructions there to guide you, as well as a general question or prompt to discuss. Your screening note should be a paragraph or so in length; it should respond to the prompt thoughtfully and specifically, sharing your impressions of the weekly film. Submissions are due the evening after the weekly lecture (Wednesdays at 8PM, unless specified otherwise), so it's best to post early. These posts are straightforward to complete and will contribute positively to your course grade (see Assignments and Evaluation, below).

### Assignments and Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

<b>Screening notes + in-class discussion</b>	weekly	<b>15%</b>
<b>Reading Quiz</b> Short answer quiz covering one or more of the readings from weeks 2, 3, 4 + Identifications (approx. 30 min.)	Week 4 (Sept. 28)	<b>15%</b>
<b>Montage assignment</b> Sequence analysis + short report (2 pages)	Week 8 (Oct. 26)	<b>30%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b> Multiple choice: covers all weeks of the course	scheduled by Registrar	<b>40%</b>

### Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: YES

**Note:** You must complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Submission of Assignments**

Unless instructed otherwise in the assignment guidelines, please submit all assignments electronically by uploading them to the designated D2L dropbox folder. Include your name and ID number on all assignments. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that you submit the proper version. Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the ***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act***. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recorded for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. For the full policy on Student Accommodations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require a medical note. For information on the use of a statutory declaration, see the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

### **Expectations for Writing**

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### **Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale**

The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department. of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade. In this course, final grades will be reported as letter grades. The Reading Quiz and Final Exam will be assessed as point scores. The Montage Assignment will receive a letter grade. Screening notes and participation will be calculated as a combined point score.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations*
4.00	Outstanding performance	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	F	0 - 49.99%	0%

\* Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

### Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. **In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin.** Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support> or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/resources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html)

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

### Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including lectures, course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. **These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited.** Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term

may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

To ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes & electronic versions of textbooks), all students are required to read the *University of Calgary Policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright* at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and the requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the *University of Calgary Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Research Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics>

### **Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal**

For university regulations and procedures related to deferral of term work, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

For information about deferrals of final examinations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

For information about requesting a reappraisal of course work or of a final grade, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

### **Student Support Services and Resources**

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk. For resources on D2L, Zoom, Yuja, etc., see <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/resources-for-students/>. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

**A detailed schedule of the course lecture topics, films, and readings  
will be made available when the course begins.**