University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
COMS 643 S01 Methods in Film Studies: *Cinematic Late Style*
W2023: January 9 ~ April 12
(excluding February 19-25 and April 7 +10)
Screenings: Wednesdays, 2:00PM - 4:45PM
Lecture + Discussion: Fridays, 1:00PM - 3:45PM
All course components are in-person, SS203.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR IN-PERSON COURSE DELIVERY

Note: This course will be delivered in-person. If you are unable to participate in-class owing to time differences or geographical location, please arrange to take this course in a future term

Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
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Web Page:	See D2L course page
Office Hours:	Fridays, 3:45-5:45PM: email to reserve a time
Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
E-Mail:	lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca

Course Description
This course is a screening-intensive seminar on the topic of cinematic late style. As its initial premise, the course asks whether the final films of a director, when contrasted with early and mid-career works, possess distinctive aesthetic qualities and internal arguments that reflect the late creative phase from which they emerge. To investigate this idea, we will closely analyze film style and content alongside the historical, cultural, institutional, and technological factors that condition it. Toward the end of the term, we will test the heuristic value of lateness as a descriptor for our present cultural moment, reading late style in relation to contemporary global film practice.

The course is motivated by foundational questions of cinema concerning film ontology and medium specificity but also draws freely on concepts, images, sounds, and texts from adjacent fields. Course readings include Theodor Adorno and Edward Said's well-known formulations of late style; salient commentaries from recent art criticism; acute assessments by distinguished film critics; and wide-ranging film and media scholarship. Although the seminar is somewhat exploratory in nature, it is designed to increase our sensitivity to late style as a filmic phenomenon in pursuit of focused research questions. Specifically, the course asks whether a late work coheres with our expectations of a filmmaker's output or stands apart from it; whether it demonstrates new uses and/or awareness of the medium, and significantly, to what extent late cinematic style illuminates profound issues of mortality and human finitude. Filmmakers considered this semester include Jennifer Baichwal, Bong Joon-ho, Jean-Luc Godard, Alfred Hitchcock, Jia Zhangke, Abbas Kiarostami, Stanley Kubrick, Alain Resnais, Martin Scorsese, Steven Soderbergh, Bela Tarr, Agnes Varda, Jean Vigo, Orson Welles, Wim Wenders, and others.

Additional Information
The seminar will require your familiarity with basic film terms to be used in discussion, presentations, and course assignments. For your ongoing reference, a 6-page Glossary of Formal Terms will be provided on D2L under 'Course Documents.' This vocabulary is not difficult to master but it is specialized and therefore may require some extra attention. The course also features a midterm that involves film analysis, which may differ from the kind of assignments you have completed in coursework thus far. I am available for support with these tasks throughout the semester and will host a mini-workshop before the midterm to ensure that you are up to speed.

Please note that course resources and reminders will be posted to the D2L course page for FILM 591. Grades and feedback will be posted on the COMS 643 page. Be sure to check both pages consistently.

Objectives of the Course
This course has three main objectives:

- In general, to develop an historically informed and conceptually nuanced understanding of late style, drawn from varied scholarly discourses and evidenced across different aesthetic configurations.
- More centrally, to specify late style as a conceptual frame for cinema, in alignment with the medium's fundamental features, creative practices, and possibilities.
- Finally, to initiate new research questions and pathways that both clarify and expand our sense of what cinematic late style is (or can be) for scholars, viewers, and critics.

Viewing Requirements

The screenings for this course are scheduled on **Wednesdays from 2PM to 4:45PM.** To support course learning, additional screenings will occur during the Friday lecture and discussion time, as well. Attendance is required for both components. If you miss a screening, or for repeat viewings and close analysis, some (but not all) course titles can be accessed at the TFDL or via streaming services. These resources are not a substitute for the scheduled screenings but may prove helpful for completing assignments.

Participation Requirements

This course serves as a hybrid seminar for senior undergraduates and graduate students. As such, your close familiarity with the assigned readings and informed contributions to class discussion are essential to the seminar's success. There is also a simple task to be completed regularly, as follows:

Every week, go to the FILM 591 D2L page to submit a brief response to the film and/or weekly reading. There will be a general question or prompt for you to discuss. Your response should be a substantial paragraph or two in length, focusing on specific details from the screening and weekly topic. Please treat this requirement as an opportunity to generate some fresh 'film writing' in preparation for larger assignments: you can test out your eye (and ear) for film technique and sketch some provisional observations. Finally, be sure to submit before the weekly deadline.

Textbooks and Readings

There is no single textbook for this course: required readings are drawn from varied sources and will be made available via **D2L** (see 'Course Documents') at the start of term. For some readings, you will need to sign into the University Library system first to obtain access: when using these electronic resources, it's a good practice to download a copy right away for your course files. Please note that the assigned reading is directly tied to all the tasks of FILM 301: if you do not complete the reading every week, it's unlikely that you will succeed in the course. Readings listed on the schedule as 'Recommended' are optional and are intended as interesting supplements. If you have any difficulty accessing the required readings, please contact me ASAP.

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to complete courses, University of Calgary students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates, with current antivirus software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection, and a current and updated web browser;
- A webcam (built-in or external), and a microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone (for online courses only).

If you need access to other software programs to complete assignments, your instructor will provide relevant information and links. If you have technical difficulties, contact IT support services. See
https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/student-campus-services-information-technologies-it.html

Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

Do not use electronic devices for email, texting, or unauthorized browsing during class time or you will jeopardize your participation grade. No photographic, audio, or video recording is permitted without the instructor's permission. Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on the recording of lectures, which is outlined at https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html, and carefully review the section on Instructor Copyright at the end of this outline.

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Assignments and Evaluation
Grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Presentations   weekly   25%
We will assign topics after Week 1. A rubric will be provided to facilitate your plans.

D2L Film Notes + In-class discussion   weekly   15%
A combined score based on informed contributions to in-class discussion and weekly film notes on D2L. For more information on these tasks, please see the section on Participation Requirements.

Short film analysis   Week 8, March 10   20%
Discussion of film technique, 2 pages.

Final Essay   Week 13, April 12   40%
A paper that deploys the available scholarly literature and performs some film-textual analysis, 12-15 pages in length, on one of the central films or issues of the course. Detailed instructions for the successful completion of this essay **will be distributed in Week 11, by March 31**. Opportunities to discuss topic selection and development will be built into the seminar's closing sessions.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO
If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will attempt to schedule the final exam in the evening, but there is no guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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
Please submit all assignments to the designated D2L Dropbox unless advised otherwise by the instructor. Include your name and ID number on all assignments. Be sure to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to 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 recording for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

Policy for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of 5% or 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/. 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.

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
Work in this course will be graded using [choose one] letter grades, GPA values (using any value on the 0 to 4.0 scale, including, e.g., 3.2 or 2.8). The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass
C+	2.30	All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

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

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 copy-right 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 lecture topics, readings, and films
will be made available when the course begins.**