

University of Calgary

Department of Communication and Culture

Film Studies (FILM) 201 L01

Introduction to Film Studies

Fall 2017

September 13 – December 6

Lecture: Wednesdays 17:00 – 17:50, Lab: Wednesdays 18:00 – 20:45
(plus tutorials)

Instructor: Dr. Murray Leeder

Office: SS 220

Office Phone: 220-3381

E-Mail: murray.leeder@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Wednesday 15:00 – 16:00, Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30

Course Description

This course introduces the study of film through an attention to questions of form, style, and critical analysis. The course is intended to serve as the introductory course for Film Studies majors and also as an option for students enrolled in degree programs other than Film Studies. By acquainting students with the critical vocabulary of film analysis and introducing them to the study of various film forms and styles, the course aims to help students to acquire new, advanced viewing skills. By the end of the course, students ought to be capable of seeing and hearing films in more sophisticated ways than before.

Additional Information

Attendance at lectures, screenings and tutorials, and informed participation are essential components of this course and will help determine your final grade. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the required reading.

PLEASE NOTE: Films screened in this course may contain disturbing images and sounds. In order to conduct valid film analyses, students must be able to adopt a critical distance vis-à-vis audiovisual material that might be unsettling or shocking. Individuals who are unable or unwilling to adopt such critical distance should not take this Film Studies course. Students who think they might have difficulty sitting through some of the films on the course outline should see me at the beginning of the semester to express their concerns.

Objectives of the Course

This course provides foundational tools and concepts required for film analysis. Students will develop different ways of considering – and writing about – the formal, aesthetic, institutional, and cultural dimensions of the cinema. The course is intended to prepare students for further work in film studies.

Internet and electronic communication device information

This course observes a strict laptop and cell phone policy. Laptops are for note-taking only. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted during class time: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid embarrassment and annoyance.

Textbooks and Readings:

Bordwell, David, Kristin Thompson and Jeff Smith. *Film Art: An Introduction*, 11th edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2016.

Assignments and Evaluation

10% In-Class Quiz 1 (October 13)

Covers Classes 1-4 of course material (lectures, screenings, reading). The format will include multiple-choice and short answer questions.

15% In-Class Quiz 2 (November 3)

Covers Classes 5-7 of course material (lectures, screenings, reading). The format will include multiple-choice and short answer questions.

30% Scene Analysis (due November 29)

This assignment requires the student to closely examine a single scene, out of a list of options that will be provided. It has two components.

1: The completion of a chart cataloguing the formal elements in all the shots in the scene. A sample chart will be provided, but it is the student's responsibility to produce his or her own.

2: Building on the data assembled in the chart, a 4-5 full page essay describing how the formal elements work together to produce meaning.

Further instructions will be provided on Blackboard.

25% Final Exam (Scheduled by Registrar)

The final exam will cover lectures, readings, and screenings from the entire semester. The exam format will include a mix of multiple-choice, short answer, and long answer questions.

10% Tutorial Participation

The TA will assign this mark based on frequency, volume and quality of meaningful participation in the tutorials.

10% Online Discussion: Weekly Reflections

After every one of our Wednesday screenings, students will have until Sunday at midnight to post in the discussion board on that given film. It can be either a new post or a reaction to another student, but it must be thoughtful, considered and substantial (at least 150 words). More detailed instructions are available on Blackboard. **There will be a**

maximum of two posts allowed per week, of which at least one must be a response to another student; students will need to post two replies more often than not to get the full marks. Each post will be pass/fail, and worth 0.5% to a maximum of 20 (10%).

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: YES

Note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Emailed submissions will generally not be accepted unless prior arrangements were made.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a 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 will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g->

[6.html](#) and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will 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. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Quizzes and assignments will be graded numerically (i.e. a maximum 10/10 for Quiz 1).

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* *
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%

1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	0-49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** 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.

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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about ...	Visit or contact ...
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca

<p>CAMPUS SECURITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	<p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333</p> <p>403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</p> <p>If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</p>
<p>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	<p>http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</p> <p>403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca</p>
<p>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	<p>http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</p>
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

List of Screenings and Readings

Class 1

September 13

Introduction

Reading: Chapter 2: "The Significance of Film Form"

Screening: *Singin' in the Rain* (Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly, USA, 1952)

Class 2

September 20

Mise-en-Scene: Staging the Event

Reading: Chapter 4: “The Shot: Mise-en-Scene”

Screening: *The Third Man* (Carol Reed, UK, 1949)

Class 3

September 27

Cinematography

Reading: Chapter 5: “The Shot: Cinematography”

Screening: *Ying xiong/Hero* (Zhang Yimou, China, 2002)

Class 4

October 4

Continuity Editing

Reading: Chapter 6: “The Relation of Shot to Shot: Editing” pp. 216-53

Screening: *Rear Window* (Alfred Hitchcock, USA, 1956)

Class 5

October 11

Montage and Other Alternatives to Continuity Editing

Reading: Chapter 6: “Alternatives to Continuity Editing” pp. 252-262; 470-473

Screening: *Bronenosets Patyomkin/The Battleship Potemkin* (Sergei Eisenstein, USSR, 1925)

In-Class Quiz #1 will be held on Friday, Oct. 13, in the tutorial

Class 6

October 18

Film Sound

Reading: Chapter 7: “Sound in the Cinema”

Screening: *Halloween* (John Carpenter, USA, 1978)

Class 7

October 25

Film Narrative

Reading: Chapter 3: “Narrative Form”

Screening: *Memento* (Christopher Nolan, USA, 2000)

Class 8

November 1

Film Form in Summary: *Citizen Kane*

Chapter 8: “Summary: Style and Film Form”

Screening: *Citizen Kane* (Orson Welles, USA, 1941)

In-Class Quiz #2 will be held on Friday, November 3, in the tutorial

Class 9

November 8

The Film Industry

Reading: Chapter 1: “Film as Art: Creativity, Technology, and Business”

Screening: *I Could Never Be Your Woman* (Amy Heckerling, USA, 2007)

Visit from Rhett Miller

Class 10

November 15

Introducing Film Genre

Reading: Chapter 9: “Film Genres”

Screening: *Near Dark* (Kathryn Bigelow, USA, 1987)

Class 11

November 22

Documentary

Reading: Chapter 10: Section on “Documentary Film,” pp. 350-70

Exit Through the Gift Shop (Banksy, UK, 2010)

Class 12

November 29

Experimental Cinema

Chapter 10: Section on “Experimental Film,” pp. 369-86

Screening: A program of experimental films including *The Last Angel of History* (John Akomfrah, UK, 1996)

Scene Analysis due in class November 29

Class 13

December 6

Film History: Case Study – The French New Wave

Reading: Chapter 12: “Film Art and Film History”

Screening: *Vivre sa vie* (Jean-Luc Godard, France, 1962)