

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
FILM 203 (L01): Introduction to Research in Film Studies
WINTER 2023: January 9 to April 12 (excluding Feb. 19-25)

Discussion: Th 15:30 to 17:20
Lab T 15:30 to 18:15

In-Person

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Instructor: | Ryan Pierson |
| Office: | SS214 |
| Email: | Ryan.pierson@ucalgary.ca |
| Web Page: | D2L (access via MyUofC portal) |
| Office Hours: | M 14:00 – 15:15 |

Course Description

An in-depth introduction to conducting research in film studies, emphasizing critical viewing, reading and writing through the examination of a specific topic, such as a film genre, a national cinema, or a filmmaker.

Topic: Animation, Effects, and Visual Experimentation before the Digital
Using a short experimental animated film, *Dear Janice* (Adam Beckett, 1972), as our primary lens and starting point, this course will examine major trends and theoretical and critical frameworks for understanding experimentation upon the film image before the rise of computer imagery.

Additional Information

Note that after the first two weeks, the course “labs” will be labs in the true sense—not screenings, but times for experimenting (in this case, experimenting with writing and reading).

The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found at the end of this outline.

Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Objectives of the Course

The objectives of this course are to:

- a) introduce methods for conducting research in film studies;
- b) develop written skills in the stylistic, cultural, and critical analysis of films.

Textbooks and Readings

Karen Gocsik, Dave Monahan, and Richard Barsam, *Writing about Movies*, fifth edition (WM)
The Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition (CM)

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 synchronous 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

Laptops are for note-taking only. In addition, no phones are allowed in class.

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.

Assignments and Evaluation

| Weight | Assessed Components | Due |
|--------|--|---------|
| 15% | <u>Participation</u> : Every student is expected to actively participate in class. This means commenting on the week’s material, sharing your work, and giving feedback on others’ work. | |
| 10% | <u>Bibliography</u> : An initial bibliography on your research topic. ~2 pgs | Feb. 7 |
| 10% | <u>Annotated bibliography</u> : A more in-depth version of your bibliography, with annotations for each entry. ~4 pgs | Feb. 28 |
| 5% | <u>Abstract</u> : A summary of your planned research argument. ~½pg | Mar. 7 |
| 15% | <u>First draft</u> : An initial draft of your research argument. ~7-10 pgs | Mar. 21 |
| 20% | <u>Edit</u> : Detailed editorial comments on a classmate’s first draft. | Apr. 4 |
| 25% | <u>Revision</u> : A new draft that responds to editorial comments. ~7-10 pgs | Apr. 16 |

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 or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments by uploading them to the designated D2L dropbox. 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 will be penalized with the loss of a partial letter grade (A- to B+, B to B-, etc.) 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

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, letter grades will be used for all assignments.

| 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% |

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|-------------|--|-----------|-------------|-------|
| 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

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.)

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

The weekly schedule will be posted on D2L.

Week 1, Jan 10 & 12

Introductions: What does a research paper do?

WM, “Challenges”; sample research papers

Screen: *Dear Janice* (Beckett, 1972)

Part one: Research

Week 2, Jan 17 & 19

Watching closely

WM, “Looking at Movies”

Screen: additional films by Adam Beckett

Week 3, Jan 24 & 26

Gathering sources

WM, “Formal Analysis”

Week 4, Jan 31 & Feb 2
Gathering sources from the sources
WM, “Cultural Analysis”

Week 5, Feb 7 & 9
Reading sources
WM, “Researching Movies”
*bibliography due

Week 6, Feb 14 & 16
Annotating sources

Week 7, Feb 21 & 23
Break

Week 8, Feb 28 & Mar 2
Abstract
WM, “Developing Your Thesis”
*annotated bibliography due

Week 9, Mar 7 & 9
Draft
WM, “Considering Structure & Organization” & “Attending to Style”
*abstract due

Week 10, Mar 14 & 16
Draft
Joseph Williams, “Clarity” & “Cohesion”

Week 11, Mar 21 & 23
Edit – concepts, argument, structure
*draft due
WM, “Revising Your Work”

Week 12, Mar 28 & 30
Edit – mechanics, grammar, format

Week 13, Apr 4 & 6
Revise!
*edit due

Week 14, Apr 11
Revise!
*revision due Apr 16