

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

Film Studies Film 301 L02

Topic in National Cinema: New Argentine Cinema

Fall 2014

Tuesday Sept. 09- Dec. 4 (excluding Nov. 08-11)

Lectures, days, and time; Tutorials, days, and time

Thursday 15:00-16:50; Lab: Tuesday 14:00-16:45

Instructor: Dr. Nayibe Bermudez
Office: CHD 320
Office Phone: 403-220-2823
E-Mail: nbermude@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Mon. 12:00-1:00; Thr.: 1:30-2:30; or by appointment

Course Description

Independent films from Argentina (1995-2010s) are known to represent “New Argentine Cinema.” This course will examine themes and concepts of this cinema historically, and par rapport to the specific Argentine sociopolitical context of the post-dictatorship years. Technical elements of the different genres within New Argentine Cinema will be linked to debates on youth culture, memory, economic instability, work and the body, the city, and other contemporary concerns of Argentine society.

Additional Information

Attendance at lectures and screenings 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. Some of the materials and topics presented in class may include explicit content (sex, violence or coarse language). If these materials make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. You will not be exempt from any class assignments but we will work together to accommodate your concerns.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course, students should:

- ✓ Have a good grasp of central questions, concepts and debates relevant to Argentina`s post-dictatorship era.
- ✓ Be able to think critically about realism and other narrative techniques
- ✓ Feel comfortable presenting results to an audience of peers
- ✓ Be familiar with film technique and critical research tools for essay, and other types of writing
- ✓ Be conversant with a variety of strategies used by Argentine filmmakers to be productive

Textbooks and Readings

J. Andermann. *New Argentine Cinema*. Tauris, 2012. Available at the bookstore
Recommended: J. Page. *Crisis and Capitalism in Contemporary Argentine Cinema*. Duke UP, 2009
J. King. *Magical Reels: A History of Cinema in Latin America*. London: Verso, 1990. 31-64.

Additional readings consist of scholarly articles to be accessed through the University of Calgary library. An online listing of these readings will be available via the course website. When reading, please think about any connections that you can make between the ideas in the book/articles and the cinematography/production/plot of the film.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic notetaking devices in this course. That being said, the classroom is a space for learning, and I expect that students' behaviour will reflect a shared appreciation for the importance of an open and high-level discourse within the classroom. Towards that end, the use of laptops should be strictly limited to the purposes of taking notes. **Laptops (and all other electronic devices) are expressly prohibited during course screenings.** Likewise, mobile phones and other devices are prohibited at all times. Failure to respect these rules may result in a revocation of your privileges to use devices in the classroom.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment	Weight
Participation	10 %
Full marks will be given to students who demonstrate through their participation in class discussions an engagement with the course readings and screenings. Weekly preparation includes careful reading and analysis of film and texts as well as drawing relations between them with respect to themes, techniques, and objectives.	
Film review (Due in class Oct. 9)	10%
Students are required to write a one page review (250 words) of one of the films of the course or of another new Argentine cinema movie or documentary. Guidelines will be posted the first week of class.	
Group discussion (Oct. 16-Nov. 20)	15%
Students will work in groups of 2-3 to produce a 20-25-minute panel discussion on one of the readings as it applies to a chosen film. Each member of the group will contribute to the research behind this project by searching and providing meaningful additional information about the film or the historical context, asking engaging questions, and choosing relevant film sequences to illustrate points and arguments. As the panel is expected to develop into engaging group discussions, students are encouraged to be creative. Readings will be assigned on week 4.	
Essay Proposal (Due in class Nov. 6)	10%
Students will write a brief summary of the primary source (150 words) and a description of the final essay topic (300 words) that will shape the final essay, including 2-3 arguments using concepts and issues of the course. (450 words total)	

Scholarly annotated bibliography (Due in class Nov. 13) 10%
The annotated bibliography will list the primary source and will reference four to six academic articles in the field of film studies to support the final essay topic. Students are to provide a brief (2-3 sentence paragraph) explanation of the relevance of each article.

Writing exercise (An in-class assignment. Due in class Nov. 20) 10%
Students are to write a solid paragraph or two about one or more of the films studied. The activity will allow students to comment on concepts and issues of the course such as realism, representation, youth culture, memory, etc in their association with composition, colour, etc. Films and topics will be posted the third week of class.

Critical viewing and oral analysis (Nov. 27-Dec. 4) 10%
Students will analyze and present a clip from one of the films studied. The exercise will consist in describing and discussing/presenting the role played by costume or lighting or props, etc., in a sequence and their significance for the whole film. Films and topics will be posted the second week of class.

Research Essay (Due in class Nov. 27) 25%
This research essay will examine a particular film (or films) in relation to a specific concept(s) or issue(s) from the course readings/lectures and will comprise sequence analyses. A list of possible topics/questions, along with more detailed instructions will be posted in Week 7. Paper length: 2,000-2,500 words, not including References section.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

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

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. 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. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

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.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

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. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. 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 System & Dept of Communication and Culture Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in Communication and Culture:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department 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	00 - 49.99%	0%

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . 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 (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 picarts@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calgary Police Service• Emergency Text Messaging• Emergency Evacuation & Assembly• Safewalk Program	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints 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/

DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus 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.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings