University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
FILM 301-01
American Cinema of the 1970s
FALL 2020: Sept. 8- Dec. 9
(excluding Oct. 12 and Nov. 9-13)

Lectures: Wednesdays, 3PM - 4:50PM
(Hybrid format: recorded lectures + synchronous discussion from 4:00- 4:50PM)
Screenings: Mondays, 2PM - 4:45PM
(synchronous: reserve this time for film viewing)

IMPORTANT NOTE ON COURSE DELIVERY FOR FALL 2020:

This Fall 2020 course will be offered entirely online as part of the University's plan to ensure everyone's safety during the Covid-19 pandemic. Please read this outline carefully to see which course components will be offered synchronously (where you are expected to participate at the usual scheduled course time) and which components will be offered asynchronously (to be completed on your own time). Synchronous course sessions will be hosted on Zoom, a video-conferencing program. To access scheduled Zoom course sessions, go to D2L, click on the COMMUNICATION tab, and select Zoom 5 or 10 minutes before class is scheduled to begin.

If you will not be able to participate in scheduled synchronous class sessions owing to time differences, then you should arrange to take this course when it is offered in person in the future. Note that the time indicated on course outlines for all timed quizzes and exams in FILM courses includes 50% extra time to allow for technical difficulties.

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

Course Description
This course performs a selective survey of 1970s American cinema, examining the stylistic and thematic trends of this unusually rich phase of post-classical production. We will consider significant changes to the industry and technological innovations; more richly, the course will probe the historical, cultural, and creative contexts that condition American filmmaking in this decade, aiming to uncover the distinctive character of its filmic texts. A key area of focus for the course is the emergent auteur cinema of the period— sometimes referred to as 'The Hollywood Renaissance'— and its difference from studio precedent. We will also consider the filmmakers excluded from this canon, and works produced at the margins of mainstream practice, engaging the films and filmmakers associated with the L.A. Rebellion. Directors discussed over the semester include Robert Altman, Thom Anderson, Stan Brakhage, Charles Burnett, John Cassavetes, Francis Ford Coppola, William Friedkin, Haile Gerima, Barbara Loden, Sidney Lumet, Elaine May, Terrence Malick, Alan J. Pakula, Bob Rafelson, Martin Scorsese, Ridley Scott, Steven Spielberg, Claudia Weill, and Robert Wise. Finally, a meaningful lens for the course is the question of film's political dimension, highlighting the resonance of 1970s cinema for the present moment in relation to representation, media, and the political and social phenomenon of paranoia.

Course Format Information

This course uses a hybrid format, featuring online screenings, recorded video lectures, and synchronous discussion sessions. **Film access instructions** will be provided to you in a course email, and on D2L, close to the start of term; be sure to look out for this important message. The course **screenings** are scheduled synchronously on **Mondays, 2PM - 4:45PM.** Every week, there will be a recorded **video lecture** for you to view; we will also host some real-time discussion in **synchronous sessions on Wednesdays from 4:00-4:50PM**. To succeed in the course, the following routine is strongly recommended: (i) view the film(s) and compose your screening note (see course assignments, below); (ii) complete the assigned reading; (iii) watch the video lecture; and then (iv) join the discussion session. During the semester, I will keep you informed about any small changes that arise, such as updates to film access info, or reduced discussion time. Please note that it is your responsibility to **read all course emails** and **updated course information**. I will make every effort to deliver this information concisely and in a timely fashion.

Additional Information

Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline. For your ongoing reference, a 6-page Glossary of Formal Terms will be provided on D2L, under 'Course Documents.' You will be expected to use these terms, and to deploy some film-analytical skills, in class discussion, online postings, and assignments. I will offer an overview of these terms early in the course, and will be available to answer any questions you might have thereafter.

Objectives of the Course

This course has three main objectives:

1. Specifically, to examine a representative group of American films produced in the 1970s, locating common features and idiosyncratic elements via narrative, stylistic, and thematic analyses;
2. To develop a nuanced understanding of the conditioning contexts of 1970s film production, situating the films as complex objects that reflect aspects of their historical and cultural situation;
3. More broadly, to consider the ways American cinema of this period highlights issues of medium, representation, and political urgency.

Viewing Requirements + Screening Notes

Students are required to watch all films indicated on the course schedule. There is another simple task to complete every week, as follows:

> After you've watched the film(s) each Monday, go to the course D2L page to submit a **screening note** (under the Discussion tab). There are 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. The thread will be closed at the end of each week (Friday at 8PM, unless specified otherwise), so it's best to post early. These submissions are straightforward to complete, and will contribute positively to your course grade (see Assignments and Evaluation, below).

Textbooks and Readings

There is no single textbook for this course: the **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 / Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

This is an online course. In order to complete online (or blended) courses, University of Calgary students are required to have reliable access to the following technologies:
- 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);
- A microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone. If you have technical difficulties, contact the university's IT department. For more information, see https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/student-campus-services-information-technologies-it.html

Assignments and Evaluation
Grades will be determined as follows:

Screening Notes + Participation in Synchronous Discussion	weekly	20%
Reading Summaries (3 summaries in total, topics + dates TBA)*	3 weeks	30%
Short film analysis (Discussion of film technique, 2 pages)	Week 8, Oct. 28th	10%
Final Essay	Week 13, Dec. 9th	40%

(A paper that deploys the available scholarly literature and performs film-textual analysis, 1500 words 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 10, by November 18th. Topics should be approved in advance by the instructor.)

*ized*Reading Summaries** are single-page explanations of the course reading, written in your own words, in response to a focused question. They will be assigned three times over the course of the semester: I will post the reading question on Wednesday, after the lecture, and your summary is due the following week **before** the lecture time (i.e. the next week before 3PM). Additional guidance for completing these assignments will be provided before the first summary is due.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Submission of Assignments
Please submit all assignments electronically by uploading them to the designated D2L dropbox (unless instructed otherwise in the assignment guidelines). 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/. Students who require an accommodation 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) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, see Section M.1 of the *University Calendar*: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html. Also see FAQs for Students: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq

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 & Grade Scale of the Dept. of Communication, Media and Film
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. Reading summaries, the film analysis, and the final essay will receive letter grades. Screening notes and participation in discussion sessions will calculated as a point score. The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

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

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, 3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go

to https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/
student-success?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation
Course materials created by the instructor (including 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.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). 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 deferrals of exams and course work, requests for reappraisals, and other matters, please see the relevant sections in the *University Calendar:*
https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html

Student Support Services and Resources
Please visit 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, visit http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students. IT support is available at itsupport@ucalgary.ca or by calling 403-220.5555.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings
A full schedule of films, lectures, readings, and access info will be posted on D2L once the course begins.