

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
FILM 301.31 L01 *American Cinema of the 1970s*
W2023: January 9-April 12
(excluding February 19-25 and April 7 +10)

Screenings: Mondays, 12PM – 2:45PM
Lectures: Wednesdays, 12PM - 1:50PM
All course components are in-person, in SS203.

Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
E-Mail:	lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	See D2L course page
Office Hours:	Mondays, 3-5PM: 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 Andersen, 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.

Additional Information

- This course will require your familiarity with basic film terms. For your reference, a 6-page *Glossary of Formal Terms* will be provided on the D2L course page. You will be expected to use this vocabulary correctly in class discussion, written tests, and assignments.
- Be sure to read all course emails so you don’t miss important course info.
- All course components are in-person this term. Course lectures + films will not be recorded or streamed for later viewing. If you miss class, request some notes from a classmate and bring your questions to the instructor.

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

Students are required to attend all screenings indicated on the course schedule. 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 will prove helpful for completing assignments.

Participation Requirements

Attendance and informed participation are essential components of this course and will determine your final grade. To succeed in the course, you must complete the assigned reading before class every week so as to make informed contributions to discussion. There is also a simple task to be completed on a weekly basis, as follows:

After you watch the weekly film(s), go to the course D2L page to submit a brief screening note. There will be a general question or prompt there for you to work with, and some helpful instructions. About a paragraph in length, your response should make a clear and informed connection between the film and weekly topics. These submissions will be assessed for quality and quantity and are a key component of your Participation grade.

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 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

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

Assignments and Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (5 dates: 4 count for marks)*	weekly	30%
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 (discussion of film technique, 2 pages)	Week 8, March 8	15%
Final Essay	Week 13, April 12	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 March 22 . Topics should be approved in advance by the instructor.		

* The Reading Quizzes, listed above, are designed to confirm your familiarity with the weekly readings. As such, they will not be scheduled in advance but rather will happen on 5 separate occasions throughout the semester, usually during the lecture period. Reading Quizzes cannot be re-scheduled or 'made-up' unless there is a documented illness; if you miss a quiz, the marks are forfeited. Only 4 out of 5 quizzes will count for marks, however: so, you can miss one, or discount one. Come to class prepared!

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Submission of Assignments

Submitted assignments should be uploaded 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.

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 quizzes will receive point scores. The midterm analysis and final essay will receive letter grades. Screening notes and participation in discussion sessions will be 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.

**A detailed schedule of lecture topics, readings, and films
will be made available when the course begins.**