# University of Calgary
## Department of Communication, Media and Film
### FILM 301-01 *Pre-Code Hollywood Cinema*

**Spring 2023: May 3 to June 15**
**Tuesdays + Thursdays, Noon – 4:45PM**
**All course components in-person, SS203.**

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| **Instructor:** | Dr. Lee Carruthers |
| **E-Mail:** | lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca |
| **Web Page:** | See D2L course page |
| **Office Hours:** | Email to reserve a time after class. |

**Course Description**
This course surveys the phenomenon of pre-code cinema, focusing on films produced in Hollywood between the announcement of the Hays Code and its enforcement, 1930-1934. The course seeks to nuance the claim that the films produced in these years emerged from a "parallel universe" (Doherty, 1999), generating representations of sex, vice, violence, and immorality without equal in the classical era. Close consideration will be given to industrial policy and practices, and the stipulations of the Motion Picture Production Code text; more richly, the course engages the cultural, technological, intellectual, and creative contexts from which these titles spring, as well as the distinctive character of the films themselves. To situate these works, we will examine significant filmic precedents, assessing the extent to which silent cinema and avant-garde practice inform pre-code aesthetics. A special emphasis of the course concerns the films' resonance for the present moment, illuminating contemporary issues of identity and urban experience.

**Additional Information**
- All course components are in-person. Course lectures and films will not be recorded, streamed for later viewing, or posted to D2L. Given the course's compressed format, **regular attendance for the full session on both days** is essential to your success. If you miss class time due to illness, request some notes from a classmate and bring your questions to the instructor.

- This course requires your familiarity with **basic film terms**. For your ongoing reference, a short Glossary of Formal Terms will be provided on D2L, under 'Course Documents.' Students are expected to use these terms, and to deploy basic film-analytical skills, in class discussion, online postings, and assignments. Support will be offered to facilitate your learning of this vocabulary if it is new to you.

- Occasionally, small changes to the schedule may be required. Such changes will be announced at the start of class and/or via email. **Be sure to read all course emails** so you don't miss crucial course information.

**Objectives of the Course**
This course has three main objectives:

1. To examine a representative range of pre-code titles, locating common features and idiosyncratic elements via narrative, stylistic, and thematic analyses
2. To develop a nuanced understanding of the conditioning contexts of 1930s film production, situating pre-code films as complex objects that answer to particular commercial and cultural imperatives

3. More broadly, to consider the ways pre-code cinema highlights questions of medium, representation, and cultural legibility.

**Viewing Requirements**

Screening, lecture, and discussion are interspersed throughout each session. Students are required to attend all course components indicated on the course schedule. 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, 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 regularly, as follows:

> At the end of each session, 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. Instead, required readings are posted in the Content Area of the **D2L** course page: be sure to consult the course schedule to confirm each week's reading assignment. To access these materials, you may need to **sign into the University Library system** first: it's a good practice to download a copy right away for your course files. Readings listed on the schedule as 'Recommended' are optional and are intended as interesting supplements. Please note that the assigned reading is directly tied to all the tasks of FILM 301: if you do not complete the reading before every class, it's unlikely that you will pass the course. 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.

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**Assignments and Evaluation**
Grades will be determined as follows:

**Reading Quizzes** (weeks 2, 3, 4, 6, 7) **\***                              30%

**D2L posts &  In-class discussion** (every session)                15%

**Short Film Analysis**                                             15%
(Week 5, May 30th. 1-2 pages: shot by shot analysis in-class; write up at home)

**Final Essay** (due June 20)                                   40%
(A paper based on textual analysis in combination with select readings, 5-7 pages in length, on one or more of the central films or issues of the course. Detailed instructions for the successful completion of this essay will be made available Week 6, by June 8th.)

**\* Reading Quizzes,** listed above, are designed to confirm your familiarity with the required readings. Starting Week 2, these brief quizzes will be written on Tuesdays or Thursdays, covering the material assigned for that day. 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**
Students 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 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. 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 & 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 short analysis and 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, A.I. content generators, or visual media.

Students must adhere to the instructor's course policy regarding the use of A.I. generated content in course work. Unsanctioned use of A.I. generated content in course work may be reported as academic misconduct.

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. **Please note that the use of chatbots or other AI tools in any submitted course assignment is a form of plagiarism and will be treated accordingly.**

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.)

**The full schedule of topics, films, and readings
will be made available at the start of the Spring semester.**