

Film Studies FILM 403 L02
Topic in the Director's Cinema: Patricia Rozema
Winter 2014
W 1500-16:50; Tutorial: M 15:00-17:45

Instructor: Dr. Richard Brock
Office Location: SS 307
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Office Hours: M 13:45-14:45

Calendar Description

Topics will examine the distinctive style and concerns of a particular director or directors.

Additional Information

One of the most important Canadian directors of the last three decades, Rozema's career has spanned award-winning independent Canadian productions (most notably *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing*), landmark queer movies (*When Night Is Falling*), blockbuster adaptations of renowned literary works (*Mansfield Park*, *Kitt Kittredge: An American Girl*), and her most recent work for HBO (*Tell Me You Love Me*, *Grey Gardens*). Taking this diverse body of work in its entirety, this class examines Rozema's distinct aesthetic (including the extensive use of spectacle in the form of visual art, theatrical performance, and the carnivalesque in her work) and employs different critical approaches to situate Rozema as a Canadian filmmaker, a queer filmmaker, and an international director.

Objectives of the Course

- Introduce the significance of Patricia Rozema to Canadian, feminist, and gay filmmaking
- Develop an awareness of Rozema's distinct aesthetic and mise-en-scene, including depictions of other art forms
- Develop an understanding of the critical controversies surrounding Rozema's film and TV projects, and the competing claims of differing critical approaches.

Internet and electronic communication device information

The use of laptops and cellphones in class is forbidden unless expressly sanctioned for specific students (e.g. in the case of an additional support need that can be accommodated by the use of technology) or for the whole class to aid in the completion of specific tasks (students may be asked to bring in laptops for workshopping purposes near the end of the term). Tablet computers may be used during class for document viewing and note taking purposes, but students should be prepared to demonstrate that they are using tablets for these legitimate purposes when asked to do so.

Textbooks and Readings:

Films and TV projects directed, written, and/or produced by Patricia Rozema (available on DVD from the TFDL reserve collection):

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing

White Room

When Night Is Falling

“Six Gestures” (contribution to *Yo-Yo Ma: Inspired by Bach*)

Mansfield Park

Tell Me You Love Me, Season 1

Kit Kittredge: An American Girl

Grey Gardens

Novel for study:

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (selections, available free on the Worldwide Web)

Selected critical material (available through the library website or in the TFDL reserve collection, as indicated):

Mireia Aragay, “Possessing Jane Austen: Fidelity, authorship, and Patricia Rozema’s *Mansfield Park*” (web)

Brenda Austin-Smith, “‘Gender is Irrelevant’: *I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing* as Women’s Cinema,” in *Canada’s Best Features: Critical Essays on 15 Canadian Films*, ed. Eugene P. Walz (library reserves)

Rhona J. Berenstein, “Where the Girls Are: Riding the New Wave of Lesbian Feature Films” (web)

Agata Smoluch del Sorbo, “Feminist Filmmaking and the Cinema of Patricia Rozema,” in *The Gendered Screen: Canadian Women Filmmakers*, ed. George Melnyk and Brenda Austin-Smith (library reserves)

Mike Gasher, “Decolonizing the Imagination: Cultural Expression as Vehicle of Self-Discovery” (web)

George Godwin, “Reclaiming the Subject: A Feminist Reading of *I’ve Heard the Mermaids Singing*” (web)

David Monaghan, “In Defence of Patricia Rozema’s *Mansfield Park*” (web)

David Monaghan, “Reinventing Fanny Price: Patricia Rozema’s Thoroughly Modern *Mansfield Park*” (web)

David L. Pike, “Time Capsules: The Eighties worlds of Denys Arcand and Patricia Rozema,” *Canadian Cinema Since the 1980s: At the Heart of the World* (library reserves)

Edward W. Said, “Jane Austen and Empire,” in *Culture and Imperialism* (library reserves)

Alison Shea, “‘I Am a Wild Beast’: Patricia Rozema’s Forward Fanny” (web)

John Wiltshire, “Decolonising *Mansfield Park*” (web)

Assignments and Evaluation

Minor Presentation (15%)

A ten-minute presentation, given in the first half of the term, on one of the previously assigned critical readings, providing context for viewing and class discussion of the week's film. Written version due one week afterwards.

Major Presentation (25%)

A 15-minute presentation, given in the second half of the term, making use of independent research and providing context for advanced discussion of the week's term. Written version due one week afterwards.

Short Scene Analysis (20%)

A four-page analysis of a single scene from either *I've Heard the Mermaids Singing* or *White Room*, designed to test understanding of and ability to apply technical terminology. Due Wednesday, February 12.

Research Paper (30%)

An eight- to ten-page paper focused on any one or two of the films from the course syllabus, making use of independent research and showing an ability to use technical vocabulary appropriately and to incorporate secondary sources. May build from either presentation, or both. Due Monday, April 14.

Participation (10%)

Awarded for regular attendance and participation in class discussion.

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

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: 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.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee

that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

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.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although 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. 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

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

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 fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

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

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Please see separate document on course Blackboard site. In general, Monday sessions will be used for film screenings and Wednesday classes for class discussion. In addition, some student presentations will be scheduled for Monday classes, prior to the film screening.