

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
FILM 403-01
The Cinema of Andrei Tarkovsky
FALL 2020: Sept. 8-Dec. 9 (excluding Oct. 12th and Nov. 9-13th)

Lectures: Fridays, 2:00PM-2:50PM
(Hybrid format: recorded lectures + synchronous discussion from 2:00- 2:50PM)
Screenings: Wednesdays, 12:00PM-2:45PM
(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 course page via D2L
Office Hours:	Fridays, 3-5PM via Zoom: email to reserve a time

Course Description

This course focuses on the films of Andrei Tarkovsky, analyzing the director's distinctive style and concerns as these tendencies illuminate issues of film aesthetics, history, and interpretation. Over the semester, we will survey Tarkovsky's entire filmmaking corpus, from the short, early titles to his final feature, giving special consideration to the ways the work illuminates the unique features of the film medium, while also engaging other artistic and cultural forms. As essential supplements, we will explore some of Tarkovsky's writings on the cinema, reading both production notes and theoretical commentaries. Finally, we will consider the influence of other filmmakers on Tarkovsky's style (such as Ingmar Bergman, Robert Bresson, Alexander Dovzhenko, Kenji Mizoguchi, and Jean Vigo) and correlatively, his legacy for contemporary film practice (via Terrence Malick, Lars von Trier, and others). In sum, the course offers students the opportunity to study Tarkovsky's cinema intensively and expansively, relating filmic detail to wider concepts and contexts.

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 **Wednesdays, 12:00PM-2:45PM**. Every week, there will be a recorded **video lecture** for you to view; we will also host some live discussion in **synchronous sessions on Fridays from 2:00- 2:50PM**. 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

This course assumes and requires your familiarity with basic film terms. 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 film-analytical skills, in class discussion, online postings, and assignments. Students are also responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Objectives of the Course

This course has three main objectives:

1. Specifically, to examine a range of films by director Andrei Tarkovsky so as to discern the stylistic and thematic preoccupations evidenced across his work.
2. More generally, to enrich and extend our film-analytical and critical skills, allowing us to approach Tarkovsky's films as complex formal and historical objects.
3. Finally, to engage the work's conceptual and philosophical possibilities.

Viewing Requirements + Screening Notes

The course films are sometimes quite challenging, so you might consider completing the readings beforehand, to see if that works better for you. Please see the recommendations about managing course tasks, above. Besides the readings + screenings, there is another weekly task, as follows:

After you've watched the film(s) on Wednesdays, 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 focus on a detail or raise a specific issue that relates to the weekly topic. The thread will be closed at the end of each week (Friday at 8PM, unless specified otherwise), so it's best to post early. While the screening responses are an excellent opportunity to test out your initial impressions and ideas about the films, posts that seem disconnected from our readings and conversations will not receive marks.

Textbooks and Readings

This course features **required readings** from a course textbook, Robert Bird's ***Andrei Tarkovsky: Elements of Cinema*** (London: Reaktion Books Ltd, 2008), as well as a selection of materials posted on **D2L**, under Course Documents. The course text is available for purchase at the University Bookstore. Please note that the assigned reading is an essential component of the course: failure to complete the readings every week will impede your ability to complete the other course tasks. Readings listed on the schedule as 'Recommended' are optional, and intended as interesting supplements: please also see the Tarkovsky info site, *nostalghia.com*, which is hosted by CMF.

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:

Reading Summaries (4 summaries; topics + dates TBD)*	weekly	20%
Screening Notes + Participation in Synchronous Discussion	weekly	15%
Midterm (short film analysis + 2-page written report)	Week 8, Oct. 30 th	25%
Final Essay	Week 13, Dec. 9 th	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 20th. Topics should be approved in advance by the instructor.)

***Reading Summaries** are single-page explanations of a course reading, written in your own words, in response to a focused question. They will be assigned at the end the week (Friday), and due before the following week's lecture. We will complete four (4) reading summaries over the course of the semester: Detailed guidance will be provided before the first reading summary is due: specific readings and dates TBA.

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 midterm assignment, and the 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 full schedule of films, lectures, readings, and access info
will be posted on D2L once the course begins.**