

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

FILM 403-01

The Cinema of Andrei Tarkovsky

Winter 2018

January 8th ~ April 13th

(excluding February 19th- 25th)

Screenings: Mondays 2:00 - 4:45PM

Lectures: Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:50PM

Instructor: Dr. Lee Carruthers
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Web Page: See course page via D2L
Office Hours: Fridays 2-4PM

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 Michelangelo Antonioni, Ingmar Bergman, Robert Bresson, Luis Buñuel, Charlie Chaplin, Alexander Dovzhenko, Kenji Mizoguchi, Alain Resnais, 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.

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.

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

The weekly screenings for this course are scheduled on Mondays 2:00 - 4:45PM. Please note that attendance at *all* screenings is required. For repeat viewings and/or close analysis, the films are held at the TFDL and may be viewed on site; additionally, some course titles may be available online. These resources are not a substitute for the scheduled screenings, but may prove helpful for 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: Besides the weekly readings + screenings, there is a simple task to be completed every week, as follows:

Every week, go to the D2L site to submit a detailed screening note about the weekly film(s). There are instructions there to guide you, as well as a general question or prompt for you to discuss. Your response should be a paragraph or so in length; it should focus on a detail or raise a specific issue that you plan to talk about in class. These responses are required and must be submitted weekly before the deadline (Wednesday at 10PM, unless specified otherwise). Finally, please be advised that posts that do not respond to the prompt in a specific and thoughtful manner will not accrue marks.

Textbooks and Readings:

This course features two kinds of required readings: (i) those contained in the course textbook; and (ii) an additional selection available via D2L, under Course Documents. The course text, available at the University Bookstore, is Robert Bird's *Andrei Tarkovsky: Elements of Cinema* (London: Reaktion Books Ltd, 2008). Please note that the assigned reading is an essential component of the course: failure to complete the readings consistently every week will substantially impact your grade.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are for note-taking only. Using a laptop for email or unauthorized browsing during class time will jeopardize your grade. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted during screenings or lectures: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid embarrassment, annoyance, and irreversible participation grade penalties.

Assignments and Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (5 dates: 4 count for marks)*	weekly	20%
D2L posts & In-class discussion	weekly	15%
Midterm (short film analysis, in-class)	Week 8, March 7 th	25%
Final Essay	Week 13, April 11 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 March 21st. 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. Potential quiz dates are as follows: January 17, 24, 31; February 7, 14, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11. **Please note that 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

Note: All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to the instructor. 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. Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

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.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework 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) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.

- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will 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. Sources used in 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 & Grade Scale of the Dept. of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Quizzes will be assessed with point grades; midterm assignment and final essays will receive letter grades. Participation and Discussion Board contributions will receive 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	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	0-49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. ** 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. 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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. Research and citation resources are also available on the website of the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/> If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging 	403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	<p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</p> <p>If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</p>
<p>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	<p>http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca</p>
<p>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	<p>http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</p>
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

A complete schedule of screenings, lectures, and readings will be available on the course web page before the course begins.