

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
FILM 591 L01 Capstone Seminar in Film Studies: *Cinematic Late Style*
W2023: January 9-April 12
(excluding February 19-25 and April 7 +10)

Screenings: Wednesdays, 2:00PM - 4:45PM
Lectures: Fridays, 1:00PM - 3:45PM
All course components are in-person, SS203.

Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
E-Mail:	lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	See D2L course page
Office Hours:	Fridays, 3:45-5:45PM: email to reserve a time

Course Description

This course is a screening-intensive seminar on the topic of cinematic late style. As its initial premise, the course asks whether the final films of a director, when contrasted with early and mid-career works, possess distinctive aesthetic qualities and internal arguments that reflect the late creative phase from which they emerge. To investigate this idea, we will closely analyze film style and content alongside the historical, cultural, institutional, and technological factors that condition it. Toward the end of the term, we will test the heuristic value of lateness as a descriptor for our present cultural moment, reading late style in relation to contemporary global film practice.

The course is motivated by foundational questions of cinema concerning film ontology and medium specificity but also draws freely on concepts, images, sounds, and texts from adjacent fields. Course readings include Theodor Adorno and Edward Said's well-known formulations of late style, salient commentaries from recent art criticism, acute assessments by distinguished film critics, and wide-ranging film and media scholarship. Although the seminar is somewhat exploratory in nature, it is designed to increase our sensitivity to late style as a filmic phenomenon in pursuit of focused research questions. Specifically, the course asks whether a late work coheres with our expectations of a filmmaker's output or stands apart from it; whether it demonstrates new uses and/or awareness of the medium, and significantly, to what extent late cinematic style illuminates profound issues of mortality and human finitude. Filmmakers considered this semester include Jennifer Baichwal, Bong Joon-ho, Jean-Luc Godard, Alfred Hitchcock, Jia Zhangke, Abbas Kiarostami, Stanley Kubrick, Alain Resnais, Martin Scorsese, Steven Soderbergh, Bela Tarr, Agnes Varda, Jean Vigo, Orson Welles, Wim Wenders, and others.

Additional Information

This Senior Seminar assumes and requires your familiarity with basic film terms, as well as your consistent commitment to the intellectual tasks and challenges of the course. This means that you are required to use the precise film-analytical vocabulary developed in film coursework thus far. (For your ongoing reference, a 6-page Glossary of Formal Terms will be provided on D2L under 'Course Documents.')

More substantially, this class demands your focused engagement with assigned readings, screenings, and in-class discussion. Be sure to set aside sufficient time to prepare for every class.

Objectives of the Course

This course has three main objectives:

1. In general, to develop an historically informed and conceptually nuanced understanding of late style, drawn from varied scholarly discourses and evidenced across different aesthetic configurations.
2. More centrally, to specify late style as a conceptual frame for cinema, in alignment with the medium's fundamental features, creative practices, and possibilities.
3. Finally, to initiate new research questions and pathways that both clarify and expand our sense of what cinematic late style is (or can be) for scholars, viewers, and critics.

Viewing Requirements

The screenings for this course are scheduled on **Wednesdays from 2PM to 4:45PM**. To support course learning, additional screenings will occur during the Friday lecture time, as well. Attendance is required for both components. 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 may prove helpful for completing assignments.

Participation Requirements

Because this course is a senior seminar, expectations for your participation and engagement with the course materials are higher than with a standard undergraduate course. You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings, and thus prepared to discuss these materials specifically. To earn participation credit, your contributions to online and in-class discussion should be clearly informed by the course readings and films. If you do not make an informed contribution to in-class and online discussion on a weekly basis, you can expect to receive zero for participation: there is no other basis for this part of your grade. Besides the weekly readings + screenings, there is a simple task to be completed regularly, as follows:

Every week, go to the course D2L page to submit a brief response to the film and/or weekly reading. There will be 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. Posts that do not respond to the prompt in a specific and thoughtful manner will not accrue marks.

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 (4 dates: 3 count for marks)*	weekly	25%
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 10	20%
Final Essay	Week 13, April 12	40%
A paper that deploys the available scholarly literature and performs film-textual analysis, 8-10 pages 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 11, by March 31 . 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 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%
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* 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, 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 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.**