

# **WORLD CINEMA**

**Film Studies 2251E**

**Fall 2015**

Instructor: Prof. Constanza Burucúa

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Office: AHB 3R16B

Office Hours: Thursday 12.30 to 2.30

## **TIMETABLE**

Screening: Monday 2:30 - 5:30 (3B02)

Lecture/tutorial: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 (3B02)

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE: AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.**

The first half of the course aims to introduce students to issues and concepts in World Cinema and to the ongoing debates around this particular field of study, while also relating these matters to circulating discourses about the Global. Such ideas will constantly inform our readings and understandings of a body of films from Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. Depending on each case study, the consecutive units will focus on different critical approaches, alternatively addressing questions concerning the representation of racial, ethnic and cultural identities, matters of gender and female authorship, and issues of genre and stardom.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Gain familiarity with some canonical films produced in Latin America, the Middle East and Africa.
- Analyze and critically appraise a wide range of films from an equally wide range of theoretical approaches.
- Develop an informed understanding of the multidimensional nature (socio-historical, ideological and aesthetic) of the concept of World Cinema/s and of the film texts that are labeled under that category.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

- World Cinema – Film Studies 2251E Course Pack (CP)
- Additional required readings are available online through the course OWL site.

## ASSESSMENT

**ATTENTION: All percentages in this syllabus are for the Fall term only.**

**The grade obtained during the first half of the course will be averaged out with the one obtained during the second half. In other words, the average between the grade obtained during the Fall term and the one obtained during the Winter term will be the final grade for the course.**

### **1. Attendance: 5%**

Students are required to attend all sessions. Attendance will be taken at every class (screenings and lecture/tutorials). More than three unjustified absences will seriously affect the attendance mark (automatically reducing it to 50% or below, if the absences persist) and students may not be allowed to take the final exam.

Students **should not sleep** during the screenings or during the lectures and/or tutorials. If a student is caught sleeping, the instructor retains the right to ask him/her to leave the room and it will be counted as an absence.

If you are absent from a screening or a lecture / tutorial, you need to provide supporting documentation to your Academic Counselor.

For more information please visit the Student Services website:

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

### **2. Participation: 10%**

Students are expected and encouraged to participate in class discussions and debates, which will be carried out in a respectful and dialogical manner. They will be based on each week's assigned readings and screenings.

Participation marks will be given on the basis of a) active engagement in seminar discussions, b) critical responses to the required readings, c) quizzes on the readings, the films watched in class and the material presented in the lectures.

Make sure to come to class having read and thought about the weekly articles specified in this syllabus and with the relevant notes and material in hand.

Students are also invited to send to the instructor by email questions related to each week's screenings and readings. Some of these questions will be discussed during tutorials and this type of participation will count towards their participation mark.

### **3. Short Essay: 15%**

To be submitted on Monday, September 28th, at 2.30.

Title of essay: Approaching World Cinema/s.

The 800 word short essay should:

- a) Provide a comprehensive definition of the idea of World Cinema/s by referring to the course's readings and examples from the films studied during the first two weeks of class;
- b) Explain, from a personal yet informed point of view, what an "enriching" approach to the discipline would be (what do you expect to gain from the course?).

Word count should be included at the end of the assignment.

### **4. Mid Term Exam: 20%**

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 1.30 to 3.30.

In the 2 hour exam, students will have to:

- Answer a series of questions related to the viewing of the films screened until October 6th (10% of the exam)
- Identify photographs (three) from films studied in the course, explain each image's relevance and its significance (30%).
- Provide short answers to three specific questions about ideas presented in the lectures and/or in the course's readings (30%).
- Choose one topic from a list of three questions and write a short essay-like answer – between one and two pages long. Students are expected to elaborate on the films viewed and studied in relation to the bibliography and to the concepts discussed in the lectures (30%).

### **5. Research Essay – Film Dossier: 20%**

To be submitted on Monday, November 30, at 2.30.

Choose one of the Middle Eastern films studied in this course (*The Circle*, *Persepolis*, *Waltz with Bashir*, *Omar*). Search for at least ten, and no more than fifteen, different articles (in academic journals, magazines, newspapers, news sites, etc.) on the film and the director you choose. Compile a dossier about the film and the director. The dossier consists of:

- a) Printed copies of the articles found and worked on (the bibliography included in the syllabus can be used and referenced; photocopies of these articles should not be included in the dossier);

b) A 1700 (+/- 5%) word essay, in which students should summarize the main ideas on the film and the director that are at stake in the articles included in the dossier.

This essay should demonstrate mastery of the technical vocabulary and analytic skills and the capacity to summarize the arguments from the bibliography.

Word count should be included at the end of the assignment.

Further guidelines for this exercise will be presented in class and posted on OWL.

#### **6. Final Exam (Fall term section): 30%**

In the 3 hours exam, students will have to:

- Answer a series of ten questions related to the viewing of the films screened throughout the course (10%).
- Identify photograms (four) from films studied in class, explain why that particular image is relevant and what its significance is (30%).
- Provide short answers to four specific questions about ideas presented in the lectures and/or in the course's readings (30%).
- Choose one topic from a list of three questions and write a short essay-like answer – between one and two pages long. Students are expected to elaborate on the films viewed and studied in relation to the bibliography and to the concepts discussed in the lectures (30%).

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

##### **Submission of essays and written assignments:**

All essays and written assignments have to be submitted both through OWL and in print to the instructor. If you fail to submit your essay in either one format or the other by the due date and time, it will be considered a late submission and it will be marked accordingly. The essay you submit through OWL and the one that you hand in have to be identical.

\*Make sure to comply to this requisite in order to avoid late submission penalties. \*

All essays and written assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism (Turnitin). For more information on plagiarism and plagiarism checking, please refer to the Senate Regulations at the end of this syllabus.

### **Late assignments:**

With the exception of properly documented medical illnesses, emergencies or unexpected circumstances, late assignments will be penalized 3 points per day late (including weekends). All requests of extensions and/or accommodations must come through the office of the Dean – Academic Counseling.

Students have to keep a copy of every assignment they hand in.

### **Laptops, ipads and cell phones policy**

Laptops are not to be used during screenings. You will need to take notes using paper and pens, so be sure to bring these materials to class. Exceptions may be granted in the case of students with special needs, but this will only come with official approval from the Dean's office.

If, during lecture/tutorials, laptops are used for random web surfing, social networking, game playing or any other activity the instructor deems outside of acceptable usage, your laptop will be banned from the class.

In addition, be sure to turn off cell phones and refrain from text messaging during class. This counts as disruptive behavior and will lower your final participation grade.

### **E-mail policy and etiquette**

Generally, all emails will be responded to within 24-48 hours during weekdays (not including holidays). Emails will \*usually\* be addressed during regular work hours (9-5). The instructor may choose, at her discretion, to respond outside these hours, depending on availability. If you send an email at 11 pm, it is highly unlikely that you will get a response before 9:00am.

When sending an email to me, please make sure of the following:

- That it observes the basic rules of etiquette
  - o You have to include the proper salutation and sign-off
  - o You have to avoid abbreviations – an email is not a text message
- That it is clearly written
- That the tone is the appropriate one in an exchange between a professor and a student.

Failure to comply with these simple rules will affect your participation mark.

If you would like to learn more about email writing, there are some useful tips, clarifications and examples in the following website:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/effective-e-mail-communication/>

## **Grading criteria**

### **A+ (90-100)**

**Argument:** Clear development of a specific, challenging and original thesis. The writer has taken significant risks successfully; in the resulting piece, distinctive ideas and content have discovered their necessary distinctive form. Detailed reference to appropriate texts, with evidence of individual response. Ability not only to expound subject but to see it around–subtleties and ambiguities, qualifications and concessions, relations to other subjects, etc.

**Presentation, structure:** Quotations well integrated into text. Proper paragraphs. Almost no typographical errors.

**Language Skills:** Sentence structure correct, with full range of sentence types (compound, complex, and compound-complex), with full range of punctuation (including semicolons, colons, dashes, parentheses). Graceful style, neither pompous nor breezy, and few errors.

**Research/scholarship:** Evidence of effective, extensive and independent research, with proper documentation of sources. Quotations used appropriately and purposively.

### **A (80 to 89)**

**Argument:** The writer has taken risks and most of them succeed. Clear development of a specific and challenging thesis, with proper paragraphs. Detailed reference to appropriate texts, with evidence of individual response. Ability not only to expound subject but to see it around–subtleties and ambiguities, qualifications and concessions, relations to other subjects, etc.

**Presentation, structure:** Quotations well integrated into text. Proper paragraphs. Almost no typographical errors.

**Language Skills:** Sentence structure correct, with full range of sentence types (compound, complex, and compound-complex), with full range of punctuation (including semicolons, colons, dashes, parentheses). Graceful style, neither pompous nor breezy, and few errors.

**Research/scholarship:** Evidence of effective and independent research, with proper documentation of sources. Quotations used appropriately and purposively.

### **B (70 to 79)**

**Argument:** Clear development of a specific thesis, with proper paragraphs. Adequately detailed reference to texts. Ability to expound reasonably sophisticated ideas with clarity.

**Presentation/structure:** Quotations well integrated into text. Proper paragraphs. A few typographical errors.

**Language Skills:** Sentence structure correct, with reasonable range of sentence types and full range of punctuation. Style not too wordy, with errors relatively few and minor.

**Research Scholarship:** Evidence of adequate research, with proper documentation of sources.

## **C (60 to 69)**

**Argument:** Reasonably clear development of a thesis, with proper paragraphs. Basic ability to expound ideas, whose development might be rather thin. Effort to support points with references to the text. Tendency to replace analysis with descriptive retelling of plot.

**Presentation/structure:** Presentation showing lapses in tidiness and/or proofreading. Poor use of paragraphs.

**Language Skills:** Sentence structure correct, but perhaps overly simple, with tendency to avoid punctuation besides period and comma. Errors relatively few, but occasionally serious, with evident misunderstanding of some point of elementary grammar (comma splices, fragments, semicolon errors, subject-verb disagreements, poorly integrated quotations)

**Research/Scholarship:** reasonable effort at documentation, but rather thin.

## **D (50 to 59)**

**Argument:** Difficulty with paragraphing or consecutive thought. Ideas inchoate but clouded by weak expression. Overgeneralization with inadequate support, or examples that run to lengthy paraphrase, with little or no analysis.

**Presentation/structure:** Very poor to non-existent use of paragraphs. Inadequate and inaccurate documentation. Multiple typographical errors.

**Language Skills:** Errors of grammar or diction frequent enough to interfere with understanding.

**Research/Scholarship:** Little serious effort to research the topic.

## **F (49 and down)**

**Argument:** Ideas too simple for level of course. Argument completely incoherent. Erroneous content showing little or no understanding of subject.

**Presentation/structure:** Very sloppy proof-reading. Documentation virtually non-existent.

**Language Skills:** Writing frequently ungrammatical.

**Research/Scholarship:** Non-existent. Content largely “borrowed” from sources with non individual distillation, but no apparent attempt to deceive.

## **0 (Report to Department)**

Plagiarism with intent to deceive.

## **SENATE REGULATIONS**

1. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage, from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the UWO Calendar).

2. **Plagiarism Checking:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between the University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](http://Turnitin.com).

3. **Prerequisites:** Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

4. **UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:** Please go to the following site for information on the university Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf)

Please Note: Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

5. **Complaints:** If students have a complaint concerning a course in which they are enrolled, they must discuss the matter with the instructor of the course. If students are still not satisfied, they should then take the complaint to the Film Studies Office, University College, Room 80. These regulations are in place because a failure to follow these procedures creates the potential for injustices of various kinds affecting either the instructor or the students themselves, or both parties. Concerns should not be allowed to fester but should be raised with the instructor in a timely manner, so that they can be addressed in time to make a difference to the course.