

FILM STUDIES 2252G: WORLD CINEMA
Winter 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Raine

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Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5:30, or by appointment

COURSE ASSISTANT: Hillary Muller

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TIMETABLE

Screening: Monday 5:30-8:30 (AHB 3B02)

Lecture/tutorial: Tuesday 4:30-6:30 (AHB 3B02)

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This course surveys the significant movements and expressions of world cinema outside of North America. It traces the development of the medium in Europe and its spread around the world, paying particular attention to Asia. The course encompasses all forms of cinema, from avant-garde films to politically-charged critiques of Hollywood as well as entertainment films. The goal is not to cover everything but to raise awareness of the aesthetic and political powers of the medium, in its various contexts.

COURSE AIMS

The course aims to help you develop your understanding of the multidimensional concept of World Cinema, and to appreciate the material histories of films produced in various global situations. It also aims to familiarize you with thinking about racial, ethnic, and cultural identity in the cinema.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understanding, capacity for argument, judgement and analysis will be fostered by essays, presentations and assignments, and by in-class small-group and whole-class discussion.
2. Communication skills will be imparted through in-class discussion and credit given for frequency and quality of contributions, and by essays and other assignments marked in accordance with a grading scale given to the students and including benchmarks for the expectations associated with each grade, from A+ to F.
3. Awareness of the limits of knowledge will be enhanced by exploring the legitimate differences of opinion and methodology within the field, and by requiring students to negotiate the formulation of their own opinions in-class with the terms and knowledge brought to that discussion by other students and the instructor.
4. The ability to argue and decide on complex issues will be fostered by essays and in-class discussion; that to manage time, by the need to prepare properly for class and to deliver assignments in a timely manner; and that for academic responsibility, by the need to source assignments accurately.

REQUIRED READING

*All required readings are posted to the resources section of the class web site. **You must print these out and bring them to class in paper form.***

ASSESSMENT

1. Attendance and participation (10%)

- 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.

Six or more unexcused absences will result in you failing the course.

- If you are absent from a screening or a lecture / tutorial, you need to provide supporting documentation to your Academic Counselor in order to get credit for attendance. For more information, please visit the Student Services website:
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
- *Attendance requires your undivided attention:* please turn off all electronic devices in screenings and make notes using pen and paper. After each screening you will be given a prompt on the class web site forum. Your contributions to those forums will count toward your participation grade.
- Participation includes writing forum posts on your reaction to the films, and paying attention in class – asking relevant questions and engaging productively in discussions. The score will be lowered by such behaviors as arriving late, leaving early, being disrespectful to the views of others, or engaging in disruptive behaviors in the classroom such as reading non-class-related materials, using personal electronic devices, or having private conversations during class. Computers can be used in class only for taking notes.
- Small-group discussions will be a feature of every class. You will discuss assigned topics related to the film or one of the readings with a group of fellow students and then report back to the class. The worksheets that you use will be handed in and will become part of your participation grade.

2. Presentation (5%)

- The discussion groups will also present on one film during the term. This will involve researching the route by which the film arrived on a world stage (film festival, commercial release, retrospective, DVD release, etc.) and the critical reception of the film. It will also involve presenting an analytic summary of that research, using whatever visual aids are necessary. The group will decide what work each member should do and will be asked to report on levels of participation. Each member of the group who is recognized as pulling their weight will get the same grade.

3. Pop quizzes (10%)

- Pop quizzes will be given at the start of most lectures and count toward the grade. **Don't be late!** In calculating this grade I will drop your two lowest scores.

4. Short Essay (10%)

- To be submitted on Thursday, February 1, by 11:55pm. Missing this deadline without a previously approved extension will be penalized 3% per day.
- The 1,200 (+/- 10%) word short essay will focus on a close textual analysis of a clip chosen from the films shown on the first three weeks of the course.

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

5. Midterm Examination (10%)

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 4:30 to 6:00pm.

In this 90-minute examination, students will:

- Answer a series of questions related to the films and course readings until February 7.
- Provide paragraph-length answers to questions about ideas presented in the lectures and/or in the films and course readings.

6. Research Essay (20%)

- There are three deadlines: February 28 (topic); March 14 (topic + annotated bibliography); March 25 (essay). Missing any of these deadlines without a previously approved extension will be penalized 3% per day.

- Choose one of the films studied on the course since week 4 that you would like to use as the focus of a research essay. You should look over your notes on the films and readings and do some extra research to find the film and the topic that will allow you to do your best work.
- Submit a statement of a specific topic that you would like to write on in relation to the film—a question raised in your reading or something that you noticed in your viewing. The topic should be a clearly articulated question, announced in the proposed title of your paper, that shows you have already done some preliminary research.
- Once your topic is approved, develop a bibliography of relevant books and articles on the film and its place in world cinema. You should annotate this bibliography and submit it to me to demonstrate that you are using appropriate sources and that you have not passed over important material.
- Write a 2000 (+/- 10%) word essay, in which you analyze the subject matter, the style, the director, the actors, the critical and community response, etc. to the film. Be sure to maintain focus on the topic that you announce in the title of your essay.
- Essays should be submitted to the assignments section of the class web site as a single uploaded file in .docx format (please put your name and the film title in the filename and include the .docx file extension). All essays must be uploaded to the class web site; they will be automatically passed through the plagiarism filters at turnitin.com and a report will be sent to you.

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

7. Final Examination (35%)

In this 3-hour examination covering all the material on the course, students will:

- Answer a series of questions related to the main films screened each week.
- Provide short answers to questions about topics presented in the lectures and/or in the course's readings.
- Write paragraph (less than one page) answers to five from a list of eight questions. Students are expected to elaborate on the films viewed and studied in relation to the readings and to the concepts discussed in the lectures.

GRADING

I will be grading participation, posting, essays, and examinations in partnership with Hillary Muller, the Course Assistant. I will sign off on all grades that are recorded in the gradebook. If you have questions about any grade you should come see me. If you would like to raise an essay grade I will probably ask you for a written justification. I will then compare your essay with others given similar marks and come to a decision.

E-MAIL POLICY

Think ahead. Generally, all emails will be responded to within 24-48 hours during weekdays (not including holidays). Don't hesitate to contact me if I don't get back to you in that time frame.

LAPTOPS AND CELL PHONES POLICY

Laptops are useful for making notes and reading material from the web site but they are also a source of distraction, to you *and to others*. Laptops should not be used during screenings. A viewing prompt and a forum will be provided for you to write your thoughts. Any indication that you are not doing class work will result in laptops being banned for in-class use. Please remember that, and remind your classmates. In addition, be sure to turn off cell phones. Text messaging during screenings and lectures is never acceptable.

SENATE REGULATIONS

1. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a major academic offence. 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. All the scholastic offenses listed in the following publication are forbidden in this class.

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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://www.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: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to their Academic Counseling Office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Students are allowed three absences without affecting their grade; the lowest two scores on in-class quizzes will be dropped. All other missed work must be made up in consultation with the instructor.

Please go to the following site for information on the university Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

For information on the examination services provided by the Student Development Centre, please visit www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd

5. Mental Health: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

6. 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, IGAB, Room 0N64. 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.

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 no individual distillation, but no apparent attempt to deceive.

0 (Report to Department)

Plagiarism with intent to deceive