

Department of English & Writing Studies  
Film Studies Program**Canadian Cinema: Documents, Storytelling, Experiments**  
**Film Studies 2258F (001)**

Fall 2019

**Instructor:** Dr. C.E. Gittings**Course Date/Time:**

Screenings: Wednesday 4:30-7:30 pm

Lecture/Discussion: Tuesday 3:30-5:30 pm

**Course Location:**

Screenings: University College 1401

Lecture/Discussion: University College 1405

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in [Film Studies 1020E](#) or [Film Studies 1022](#) or special permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This 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.

Course Description

Beginning in the silent period and extending into the twenty-first century, this course seeks to answer historical, cultural, ideological and aesthetic questions about Canadian cinema. We will explore how cinema has reflected the complex and unstable notion of Canada as a nation, focusing upon issues of representation as well as problems of production, distribution and exhibition as these are grounded in political economy. Additionally, we will consider the transnational flows between the Canadian film industry, Hollywood, and other global film industries through co-production and casting. Questions addressed include: What is the influence of the documentary tradition on Canadian cinema as a whole? Is there an innate division between Canadian “art” cinema and popular cinema? What are the relationships of First Nations, regional, diasporic and queer cinemas to a Canadian national cinema? Does Canadian cinema embody two linguistic, cultural and industrial “solitudes” or are there in fact a range of Canadian *cinemas*? How have history, immigration and economics shaped Canadian cinema? What roles can genre play in understanding Canadian cinema? How do gender, sexuality, race and class inflect the representation of Canadian nation on screen?

**Objectives:**

- Understandings of the historical trajectory of Canadian cinema.
- Mastering of Film Studies’ critical terms ‘national cinema,’ ‘genre,’ ‘postmodern,’ ‘political economy,’ ‘transnational’ and ‘ideology’ as these apply to Canadian cinema.
- The above will be acquired by students through a capacity for argument, research, judgement and analysis that will be fostered by essays, presentations and other assignments, and by in-class small-group and whole-class discussion on Canadian national cinema.
- Communication skills will be imparted through in-class discussion and credit will be given for frequency and quality of contributions.
- Research skills will be developed through the reception study assignment and the research required for the term paper.
- Essays and other written assignments are marked in accordance with the grading criteria listed below and include benchmarks for the expectations associated with each grade.

- 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 discussions by other students and the instructor.
- The ability to argue and decide on complex issues will be fostered by essays and in-class discussion. Time management skills will be fostered by the need to prepare properly for class and to deliver assignments in a timely manner. Academic responsibility will be developed by the need to source assignments accurately.

### Course Materials

#### **Required:**

- Christopher E. Gittings, *Canadian National Cinema: Ideology, Difference and Representation* (London/New York: Routledge, 2002) [CNC]  
Available from the UWO Bookstore
- Additional Readings available on the course **OWL** page under **Lessons** and **PDF Course Readings**. A list of all course resources is found by clicking on **Lessons** on the left side of the OWL page

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Attendance /Tutorial Participation		10%
Group Presentation		20 %
Mid-term	<b>TBA</b>	15%
Essay	<b>TBA</b>	20%
<b>TOTAL TERM</b>		<b>65%</b>
<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>		<b>35%</b>

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

#### **Course Requirements for Success:**

- All students will attend screenings and seminars prepared to **participate** in discussions based on the week's assigned readings and screenings.
- Notes should be taken during or immediately following all screenings.
- Come to class with questions or comments that have arisen from your readings, the lecture and screening.
- Make notes during the lectures, and class discussions, with a view to challenging or developing some of the points expressed.
- Review lecture slides frequently.