

FILM3316F/VAH3391F

HOLLYWOOD CINEMA AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Fall 2016

Professor: C. Sprengler

Office: VAC 218

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

Email: csprengl@uwo.ca

Class Time: Thursdays 11:30am-2:30am

Room: NCB 114

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The relationship between film and the visual arts is a long and complex one, stretching back to cinema's very first years. It is one defined by reciprocity, experimentation, and inspiration. This course will begin with a brief survey of this historical relationship and then consider the myriad ways in which contemporary visual artists have made Hollywood film the subject of their work. There will be a special focus on the cinema of Alfred Hitchcock and the artistic practices his oeuvre has inspired.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Students will have a thorough knowledge of the key critical and theoretical frameworks that pertain to the practices being studied and will be able to engage with works of art and film according to those frameworks. Specifically, this course will familiarize students with the works and debates central to investigations into the relationship between art and the cinema

2. Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will acquire the discursive/theoretical vocabularies that are utilized in debates within the disciplines of art and film, and will demonstrate their knowledge of the field through the deployment of these vocabularies in writing.

3. Application of Knowledge

Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular practice or historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works. Moreover, students will learn to evaluate written texts, analyze a diverse array of visual imagery, and think critically about the relationship between art objects, films, and their contexts.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. All readings are available online through Western Libraries and our OWL course site. You are not required to purchase any texts.

(Please see weekly schedule below for citation information and web addresses where applicable.)

EVALUATION

Short Reflection Essay: 15%

Due: September 29, 2016
Length: 750-1000 words (3-4 typed pages)

Essays must be typed, doubled-spaced and handed in at the beginning of class. Late essays will receive a 1% penalty per day. For example, if an essay worth 15% of your final grade is due Thursday but submitted on Friday, the maximum mark you can receive is 14/15. We will spend time in class reviewing the marking criteria and details of this assignment.

Test: 25%

Date: November 3rd, 2016
A review and information session is scheduled for October 20th, 2016.

Research Essay: 30%

Due: December 1, 2016
Length: 2000-2500 words (8-10 typed pages)

Your final research essay must follow Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. You are required to supply a full bibliography of sources cited and consulted. Your mark will be based on the effectiveness of your argument, your ability to analyze critically relevant creative and literary sources, and the clarity and concision of your writing. Details of this assignment will be reviewed in class. We will also discuss the possibility of pursuing an alternative to the research essay that involves devising a plan for a creative component.

Presentation: 20%

Students are expected to deliver one presentation on their final research project. A one-page summary must be emailed to the instructor by 5pm the day before the presentation to be posted online for the class to consult. Your mark will be based on both the content and delivery of your presentation as well as your one page handout. Details of this assignment will be reviewed in class.

Class Contributions (aka Participation): 10%

Mark breakdown: Attendance = 5%; Participation = 5%

After two absences, each undocumented further absence from class will result in a 1% reduction of your attendance mark.

The class contribution portion of this mark will be determined by the extent *and quality* of your engagement in seminar discussions. You are expected to prepare for and contribute to the class, but can do so in several ways: by responding to questions posed by the instructor or TA; by posing your own questions that reflect an attempt to make sense of the readings or visual material shown; by offering your own perspectives on the readings or artworks/films under discussion; by submitting a comment or question by email to the instructor; by sharing your knowledge of an artwork/film relevant to the topic addressed in class, etc.

Please note: The syllabus is subject to change. Advance notice will be given for all changes to readings, tests, and assignments.