

THFM-2410-001 (6 credit hours)

HISTORY OF FILM

Fall/Winter 2013-14
Fridays 2:30-5:15
Room 1L11

Instructor: Howard Curle
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Office Hour: Fridays, 1:30-2:20 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

History of Film surveys the history of narrative film from the 1890s to the present day. Students gain an understanding of the evolving technical advancements of the medium in the context of both artistic expression and industrial mode of production. The course takes an international perspective, focusing on major film movements and major filmmakers from Europe, North America and Asia.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Gerald Mast, Bruce Kavin, *A Short History of the Movies* (Abridged 11th edition)

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are required to attend screenings and do the required readings as outlined on the screening schedule. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussion and must complete required assignments as outlined on the screening schedule. Instructions for the research and essay assignments will be handed out on the days indicated on the screening schedule.

Classes begin promptly at 2:30 p.m. – please be on time. Persistent unexcused tardiness or absences will adversely affect your class participation grade. Assignments handed in late without reasonable excuse are subject to a grade penalty of 1% per day assessed against the grade of the paper. **Do not miss a class – mine or any other instructor's – because you have not completed an assignment on time.** It is never worth skipping a class because you are working late on an assignment.

Have respect for your fellow students: please do not conduct private conversations in class during screenings or class discussions or when the instructor is speaking. Please mute any electronic devices in your possession during class time.

Food and drink (water excepted) are not permitted in the classroom during class period. Have a good lunch before class.

I will schedule a brief recess after the screening of a film to provide a break during class time. However, leaving the room on your own before the end of class is disruptive. Should you need to leave a class before the end of class, let me know ahead of time either by contacting me by phone or e-mail or seeing me at the beginning of class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students are reminded that plagiarism is a serious academic offence. You should acquaint yourself with the regulations regarding plagiarism, cheating and examination impersonation as well as the rules for registration, withdrawals and appeals in the University of Winnipeg Calendar for 2013-14.

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grade evaluation will be based on a research assignment, an essay, a mid-term test, and a final examination. On occasion, attendance will be taken. The breakdown of the marks is as follows:

Fall term research assignment.....	20%
Mid-term test	25%
Winter term essay.....	25%
Final examination (place and date and time)	25%
Class participation (both terms)	5%
TOTAL	100%

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

A+	90 – 100%	GPA	4.5	C+	65 – 69.9%	GPA	2.5
A	85 – 89.9%	GPA	4.25	C	60 – 64.9%	GPA	2.0
A-	80 – 84.9%	GPA	4.0	D	50 – 59.9%	GPA	1.0
B+	75 – 79.9%	GPA	3.5	F	below 50%	GPA	0
B	70 – 74.9%	GPA	3.0				

Work not submitted will be graded 0%.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**Fall Term:**

Sept. 6	Introduction to the study of film history
	Early film: from the cinema of attractions to early narrative
Sept. 13	American and French silent film
Sept. 20	German Expressionist cinema and the new objectivity
Sept. 27	filmmaking in the Soviet Union in the silent period
Oct. 4	the transition to sound
Oct. 11	Introduction to the Hollywood studio system of the sound era
	Fall term research assignment
Oct. 18	The Hollywood studio system: Columbia
Oct. 25	The Hollywood studio system: Universal
Nov. 1	The Hollywood studio system: RKO
	Fall term research assignment due
Nov. 8	French cinema of the 1930s
Nov. 15	Japanese cinema of the 1930s
Nov. 22	British cinema of the 1930s

Winter term:

Jan. 10	Italian neo-realism
Jan. 17	American film noir
Jan. 22	final date for withdrew without academic penalty
Jan. 24	Ingmar Bergman
Jan. 31	American cinema in the 1950s
Feb. 7	Post-World War II Japanese cinema
Feb. 14	the French new wave
	Winter term essay assignment
Feb. 17--21	Mid-term reading week: no class Feb. 21

Feb. 28	Italian cinema of the 1960s
Mar. 7	New Hollywood cinema Winter term essay due
Mar. 14	New Hollywood cinema – continued
Mar. 21	German cinema reborn
Mar. 28	cinema of the Middle East
April 4	review

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the dates in your diary **NOW**: Sept. 18, Oct. 23, Nov. 13, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, Mar. 12. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwrighting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

ORIENTATION ASSEMBLY

Each year in September we hold an *Orientation Assembly* to introduce our new students to faculty and other students, to provide information about the department, its various activities and those of its professors, and to provide news about what's coming up. This year our *Orientation Assembly* will be held on **Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 12:30-13:20 in Theatre, 1T15. ATTENDANCE IS COMPULSORY** for all Majors, potential majors, and Honours students; all others are welcome, of course, and are strongly encouraged to attend.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Disability Services at 786-9771 to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about Disability Services is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-disability>. All information about disabilities is confidential.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (which houses the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekdays. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days per week **BUT PLEASE NOTE**: outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that students **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you will be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the documents posted under the menu item called "Student Rehearsal Room Bookings": **Access Card/Building Use Policy AND Room Booking Instructions.** The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at that location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations. Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of his/her identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students are advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at www.uwinnipeg.ca under Student/Course Calendar) on "Regulations and Policies" for information on Registration, Grading, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

TUESDAY, Jan. 21, 2014 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin in September 2013 and end in April 2014 (2013/14 Fall/Winter Term).

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND FILM

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

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COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.