

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Film Studies FILM 591 L01
Senior Seminar on Cinematic Time
Winter 2015
January 12th~Apr 15th, 2015
Screenings: Wednesdays 12:00 - 14:45
Lectures: Fridays 12:00 - 13:45

Instructor: Dr. Lee Carruthers
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Web Page: D2L course page
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3-5PM

Course Description

This course explores the phenomenon of cinematic time, considered as a fundamental issue for filmic ontology; as a conditioning feature of film viewing experience; and as a significant opportunity to reflect upon the aesthetic forms and meanings of diverse filmic texts. The course performs a wide survey of filmmaking practices, moving from the silent era to the present, through Hollywood and global cinemas, and across the terrain of popular, acclaimed, and avant-garde works. In particular, we will place special emphasis upon recent trends of the contemporary art cinema (so called 'slow cinema' and its alternatives), endeavoring to contextualize such currents historically in light of longer traditions, viewing expectations, and critical practices. To this end, the course will screen and analyze works by filmmakers such as Robert Bresson, Hollis Frampton, Paul Greengrass, Howard Hawks, Benjamin Heisenberg, Jia Zhangke, Doug Liman, Terrence Malick, Jean-Pierre Melville, Alain Resnais, Steven Soderbergh, Andrei Tarkovsky, Bela Tarr, Jacques Tati, Tsai Ming-liang, and others, in an effort to understand the distinctive experiences of time that cinema generates for viewers.

Additional Information

This Senior Seminar assumes and requires your familiarity with basic film terms, as well as your consistent commitment to the intellectual tasks and challenges of the course. This means that you are required to use the precise film-analytical vocabulary developed in film coursework thus far. (For your ongoing reference, a 6-page Glossary of Formal Terms will be provided on Blackboard, under 'Course Documents.')

More substantially, this class demands your focused engagement with assigned readings, screenings, and in-class discussion. Be sure to set aside sufficient time to prepare for every class.

Objectives of the Course

This course has three main objectives:

1. Specifically, to examine the temporal forms and character of a range of films, uncovering the ways that cinematic time conditions viewing experience.
2. More generally, to enrich and extend our film-analytical, critical and interpretive skills,

- discerning the films' formal and thematic complexities.
3. Finally, to reflect upon cinematic time as a deep concept that potentially illuminates aesthetic, historical and philosophical dilemmas.

Viewing Requirements

The weekly screenings for this course are scheduled on **Wednesdays, 12:00 - 14:50; supplemental screenings may also occur during the lecture time.** Please note that attendance at *all* screenings is expected. As many of the course titles are longer films, please arrive a few minutes early for every screening. For repeat viewings and/or close analysis, the films are held at the Media Library (3rd floor, TFDL) and may be viewed there; additionally, some titles may be available at local video stores, such as Casablanca Video. These resources are not a substitute for the scheduled screenings, but may prove helpful for assignments.

Participation Requirements

Regular attendance and informed participation are essential components of this course that will determine your final grade. You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings, and thus prepared to discuss these materials specifically. Please note that a significant percentage of your grade is based on participation. If you do not make an informed contribution to in-class and online discussion on a weekly basis, you can expect to receive **zero** for participation: there is no other basis for this part of your grade. Besides the weekly readings + screenings, there is a simple task to be completed every week, as follows:

Every week, go to the Blackboard site to submit a **brief response to the film and/or weekly reading.** There will be a general question or prompt for you to discuss. Your response should be a paragraph or so in length; it should focus on a detail or raise a specific issue that you plan to talk about in class. These responses are required and must be submitted weekly before the deadline (Sunday at 10PM, unless specified otherwise). Finally, please be advised that posts that do not respond to the prompt in a specific and thoughtful manner will not accrue marks.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Laptops are for note-taking only. Using a laptop for email or unauthorized browsing during class time will jeopardize your participation grade. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted during class time: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid embarrassment, annoyance, and irreversible participation grade penalties.

Textbooks and Readings:

There is no single textbook for this course: readings from diverse sources will be made available on Blackboard when classes begin. These materials are either accessible via Blackboard (designated as 'B' on the schedule below), or by the **link** provided. Please note that the assigned reading is directly tied to the tasks of the course. *If you do not complete the reading every week it is unlikely that you will succeed in FILM 591.*

Assignments and Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (5 dates: 4 count for marks)*	weekly	20%
Blackboard posts & In-class discussion	weekly	20%
Midterm (short film + critical analysis, in-class)	Week 7, Feb. 27 th	20%
Final Essay	Week 13, Apr. 10 th	40%

(A paper that deploys the available scholarly literature and performs film-textual analysis, 2500 words in length, on one of the central films or issues of the course. Detailed instructions for the successful completion of this essay will be distributed in Week 9, by March 13th.)

* The **Reading Quizzes**, listed above, are designed to confirm your familiarity with the weekly readings. As such, they will **not** be scheduled in advance but rather will happen on 5 separate occasions throughout the semester, usually during the lecture period. **Reading Quizzes cannot be re-scheduled or 'made-up'; if you miss a quiz, the marks are forfeited.** Only 4 out of 5 quizzes will count for marks, however: so, you can miss one, or discount one.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

All assignments and exams must be completed or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale FilWork in this course will be graded using letter grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 picarts@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calgary Police Service• Emergency Text Messaging• Emergency Evacuation & Assembly	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safewalk Program 	<p>If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</p>
<p>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	<p>http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca</p>
<p>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	<p>http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</p>
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A detailed schedule of screenings and readings will be made available when the course begins.