

**Film Studies (FILM) 203 – Lecture 01**  
**Introduction to Research in Film Studies**  
**Winter 2014**  
**Monday 12:00 - 2:45; Wednesday 1:00 - 2:50**

**Instructor:** Dr. Charles Tepperman  
**Office** SS 238  
**Location:**  
**Office Phone:** 220-7303  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 and by appointment

### **Course Description**

An in-depth introduction to conducting research in film studies, emphasizing critical viewing, reading and writing through the examination of a specific topic, such as a film genre, a national cinema, or a filmmaker.

Topic: “The Big Picture: Issues of Scale in Cinema”

This course takes the recent resurgence of large-screen and immersive cinema experiences (IMAX, 3D, etc) as an opportunity for considering the issue of cinematic scale from a variety of perspectives. We will consider technological precursors, aesthetic dimensions, and cultural implications of large-scale cinema (and by implication, its inverse: small-scale, or micro-cinema). How do shifts in cinematic scale respond to various industrial imperatives? What is the conceptual significance of the “big picture”? How can tracing a media archeology of large-scale cinema help us to better understand our motion picture present (and future)?

### **Additional Information**

Attendance at both lectures and screenings are essential components of this course. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the films and required reading.

### **Objectives of the Course**

The objectives of this course are to:

- a) introduce methods for conducting research in film studies;
- b) develop written skills in the stylistic, cultural, and critical analysis of films;

c) examine large-screen motion pictures from various historical, technological, aesthetic and social perspectives.

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

This course observes a strict laptop and cell phone policy. Laptops are for note-taking only. 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 and annoyance.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

Readings available via Blackboard.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

*Class participation (ongoing)* 10%

In-class discussion is an essential component of the course. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the readings and screenings. Class participation grades will be evaluated based on the quality of your contributions to in-class discussions.

*Blackboard Reading Responses (weekly)* 10%

Responses should be in polished, standard English (no point form or weblang please!), run a paragraph or two in length (approx. 250 words) and focus on a detail or raise a specific issue from the assigned reading. These responses must be submitted on Blackboard by each Tuesday at noon (no later). To get full marks, you must post 10 weekly journal entries over the course of the semester.

*In-Class Presentation* 10%

A 10-15 minute in-class presentation; a sign-up sheet will be distributed in Week 1.

*First Essay (Draft due Jan 29; final essay due Feb. 3)* 20%

A short (3 page) essay that presents a close analysis of a film/sequence. Draft due in class on Jan. 29.

*Second Essay (Draft due March 5; final essay due March 10)* 25%

A short (4 page) essay that presents a close reading of critical/theoretical material.

*Third Essay (Draft due April 9; final essay due April 14)* 25%

A short (5 page) essay that provides a contextual/historical analysis drawn from a primary source.

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

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. 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.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

**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.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

**Writing Skills Statement**

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although 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. 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**

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99

B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

### **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. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

### **Academic Misconduct**

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

### **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 fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

### **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

## **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

## **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

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

## **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

Will be posted on Blackboard.