

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

Film Studies FILM 301 L01

Topic in National Cinema

Film and the City: The Urban Imaginary in Postmodern Canadian Cinema
Fall 2014

Block Week: Tues: Sept. 02 – Sat. Sept.06, 2014

TWRFS: 9:00-17:00

Instructor: Prof. George Melnyk
Office: SS218
Office Phone: 403-220-7562
E-Mail: gmelnik@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L
Office Hours: TWRFS 8:15-8:45 and 17:00-17:30 or by appointment.

Course Description

This course is an examination of the urban film in Canadian cinema from 1990 to 2010. The course focuses on contemporary Canadian urban identities as represented in feature films made by auteur directors in both English and French. The course explores the concepts of visuality, spatiality, and orality in these films. It also discusses the concept of cultural grammars as displayed in these films. In particular it examines the various discourses around nationality, religion, sexual orientation, class, and gender found in these films. The course is meant to introduce students to the variety of urban identities in Canada and the role of film in expressing this diversity.

Additional Information

This course has a pre-session study component. Students are required to read *Film and the City: The Urban Imaginary in Canadian Cinema* prior to the start of the course.

Objectives of the Course

To foster a discussion of contemporary Canadian urbanity;
To understand the role of the auteur filmmaker in the urban imaginary;
To explore the cultural grammars that underlie urban filmmaking;
To introduce students to the diversity of urban identities in Canada;
To stimulate an awareness of cinema's role as a postmodern expression of the city.

Textbooks and Readings

The required reading is George Melnyk, *Film and the City: The Urban Imaginary in Canadian Cinema* (Athabasca University Press, 2014).

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are welcome to use various digital devices during class time. However, the use of these devices should be limited to note-taking and reference work. Any use of these devices in such a way as to disturb the concentration of other students is to be avoided.

Assignments and Evaluation

The assignments for this course will consist of the following:

1. **One-hour in-class test** worth 30% of the final grade. The test will be held on Friday afternoon (Sept. 05) at the end of the class. It will consist of three questions to be answered in short-essay form with each answer worth up to 10% of the final grade. This will be a closed-book test.
2. **Take-home exam** also worth 30% of the final grade. It will consist of three questions, each worth 10% of the final grade, which will be answered in short essay form limited to 600-800 words. This will be an open-book exam. The exam will be handed out at the end of class on Saturday, Sept. 06 and will be due in SS218 on Friday, Sept. 12 at 14:00 (2 p.m.) It may be submitted prior to that time. Hard copies only will be accepted.
3. **Research paper** worth 40% of the final grade. The paper will be on either 1) a film director studied in the course, or 2) a film studied in the course, or 3) a comparison of two films in the course made by different directors. It will be 2000-2500 words in length. The research paper will be due Friday Sept. 19 at 14:00 (2 p.m.) in SS 218. Hard copies only will be accepted.

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 SS218. 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.

Please 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 will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late, unless proof of medical emergency is provided. No assignments will be accepted later than Monday, Sept. 22 at 16:30. Assignments arriving after this time will be given a grade of 0.

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 & Dept of Communication and Culture Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using percentage grades and letter grades. The final grade will be a letter grade. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in Communication and Culture:

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 • Safewalk Program 	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 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/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	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 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.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The detailed course outline with a schedule of lectures and films will be provided after August 15th on D2L. Hard copies will also be available at the beginning of class on Sept. 02, 2014.