

**Film Studies (FILM) 321 – L60**  
**History of Popular Cinema**  
**Summer 2012**  
**Tu & Th 0900-1350**

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrew Nelson  
**Office:** SS304  
**Office Phone:** 403-220-7097  
**E-Mail:** apnelson@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** Blackboard  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday from 14:00 to 15:00 and by appointment

**Additional Information**

Prerequisite: FILM 201: Introduction to Film Studies

**Course Description**

An assessment of the various ways in which the history of film production can be approached, including the development of filmmaking technologies, evolutions in cinematic style and narrative traditions, particularly as they relate to popular cinema, and changing industrial practices.

**Objectives of the Course**

The objective of this course is to provide students with a foundational understanding of the history of American and European cinema as a technology, commercial medium, and artistic form. Students will also cultivate skills in the stylistic, historical and critical analysis of film.

In order to achieve these objectives, it is imperative that students come to class **prepared**, having completed the assigned readings or other preparatory tasks and willing to discuss pertinent issues with both the instructor and their peers in a thoughtful and respectful manner.

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

Mobile phones must be turned off during class. Students may use laptops or tablets during lectures and discussions for note-taking purposes only.

**Textbooks and Readings**

Thompson, Kristin and David Bordwell. *Film History: An Introduction*. Third Edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010.

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard [BB].

**Assignments and Evaluation**

- 20% Mid-term test, held in class on July 26. Multiple-choice and short-answer questions covering lectures, readings and screenings from the first six weeks of class.
- 35% 2,500-word research essay, due in class on August 14. A list of essay topics will be available on Blackboard. The essay must be composed in formal, error-free, academic English, and formatted according to either MLA or Chicago documentation and presentation standards. Your name and student number must appear on each page. Please staple all work – no paper clips or folders.

- 35% Final exam, held during the examination period. Multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions covering lectures, readings and screenings from the entire semester.
- 10% Participation. Please note that simply being physically present in the classroom *does not* constitute participation.

Students are responsible for catching up on any material missed due to absence.

In cases of illness or bereavement, late assignments will be accepted and missed quizzes excused if official documentation (e.g. a note from your physician) is provided.

All other late assignments will be penalized according to the policy detailed below, and missed quizzes will result in a grade of zero.

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

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your 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:** Yes

**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://www.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: [www.efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca)

**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

(Revised, effective September 2008)

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 Digital Family 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 Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) 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.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

### **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/cfreb>

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

Available on Blackboard.