

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Film Studies (FILM) 333-01: *Film Theory after 1950*

Fall 2019: September 5 – December 6th (Oct. 14 and Nov. 10-16)

Lectures: Wednesdays, 2:00-3:50PM

Screenings: Mondays, 2:00-4:45PM

Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
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Web Page:	D2L
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 4-5PM. Please send me an email to set a meeting time.

Course Description

This course surveys significant theoretical writings on cinema produced from 1950 to the present. We will examine an extensive range of critical commentary, considering the ways film has been conceived as a narrative system; as a language; as technology/apparatus; as a vehicle of ideology; as a medium of resistance; and finally, as an occasion to reflect upon historical and philosophical issues. In taking this course, students will become familiar with the significant concepts and debates of academic film theory, while fulfilling the course aims named below.

Additional Information

As a course with a prerequisite, (FILM 201), this class assumes and requires your familiarity with basic film terms. For your reference, a 6-page Glossary of Formal Terms is provided on D2L under 'Course Documents.' Students are expected to use this vocabulary correctly in class discussion and in written assignments.

Objectives of the Course

This course has four overlapping objectives:

- To become familiar with the core issues of contemporary film theory.
- To become a sophisticated reader, engaging closely and critically with film-theoretical texts.
- To discern relationships between the course readings and the weekly film screenings: what does each text reveal about the other?
- To write clearly and authoritatively about films and film-theoretical issues, and thus to share in ongoing debates about film and media.

Textbooks and Readings

There are two sources of required readings.

From the University Bookstore: *Critical Visions in Film Theory: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Edited by Timothy Corrigan, Patricia White with Meta Mazaj. (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2011). Readings from this text are designated as 'CVFT' on the course schedule.

Online: Additional required readings are accessible on the **D2L** course page via links or as downloadable PDFs. These are designated as 'D2L' or 'ONLINE' on the course schedule.

Reading Requirements

The reading materials of this course are challenging and cannot be mastered quickly or superficially. You will need to set aside sufficient time to complete the readings every week and to reflect upon their content. If you find the texts difficult (and you will— theoretical writings are by nature tricky), highlight the specific words and/or passages in question and raise these issues in class. Other students will have similar questions, and will benefit from hearing yours. If your schedule doesn't permit this kind of focused commitment, however, FILM 333 is not for you.

Viewing Requirements

Students are required to attend all screenings. If you miss one, it is your responsibility to view the film(s) on your own time and to catch up on any course information offered during the screening time. Most course films are available at the Taylor Library: check the collection the following week. Some titles may be viewable online: these resources are not a substitute for the scheduled screenings, however.

Participation Requirements

Attendance and informed participation are essential components of this course and will determine your final grade. To succeed in the course, you must complete the assigned reading before class every week, so as to make informed contributions to discussion. There is also a simple task to be completed on a weekly basis, as follows:

After the Monday screening, go to the course D2L page to submit a brief response to the film + weekly reading. There will be a general question or prompt there for you to work with. About a paragraph or so in length, your response should make a clear connection between the film and the weekly topics. Please note that cursory, vague, or irrelevant commentary cannot be credited.

Policy on the use of Electronic Communication Devices

Do not use your laptop for email or unauthorized browsing during class time or you will jeopardize your participation grade. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted on class time: please turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid irreversible grade penalties. No photographic, audio, or video recording is permitted without the instructor's permission.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
15%	In-class discussion + D2L These marks derive from two course activities: posting weekly commentary on D2L about the course materials (see 'Participation Requirements' above) and making informed contributions to discussion in class every week.	Weekly, in-class + posted to D2L
15%	Week 4 Quiz An in-class quiz covering the readings assigned weeks 2,3,4	Week 4 October 2
30%	Midterm A short answer test, written in-class, based on excerpts from the assigned readings.	Week 8 October 30
40%	Final Exam Multiple choice: all course materials, Detailed review session offered Week 13.	TBA: scheduled by the registrar.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: YES

Note: You must complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If you miss a required course component, contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Submission of Assignments

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments and hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If you are unable to do so, please use the drop box 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. **Note:** It is your responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that you submit the proper version (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission).

Be prepared to provide photo ID to pick up assignments in SS 320. Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act**. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recorded for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

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.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation based on a protected ground other than

disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require that a medical note be presented. For the policy on supporting documentation the use of a statutory declaration, see Section M.1 of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>. Also see FAQs for Students: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Expectations for Writing

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

In this course, final grades are reported as letter grades; participation scores, tests, and the final exam will be scored numerically.

The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations*
4.00	Outstanding performance	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%

1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	F	0 - 49.99%	0%

* Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media. 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.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support> or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, 3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=redirect&utm_campaign=redirect

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

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, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics>

Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal

For university regulations and procedures related to deferrals of exams and course work, requests for reappraisals, and other matters, please see the relevant sections in the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

Student Support Services and Resources

Please visit <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk.

For resources on D2L, visit <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>. IT support is available at itsupport@ucalgary.ca or by calling 403-220.5555.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

A complete schedule of screenings, lectures, and readings will be available on the D2L course page before classes begin.