

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

FILM 403-01
Topic in the Director's Cinema
The Cinema of Alfred Hitchcock
Winter 2019
January 14 2019 — April 10 2019
(excluding February 17- 23)

Screenings: Mondays 2:00 - 4:45PM
Lectures: Wednesdays 3:00 - 4:50PM
SS203

Instructor: Dr. Lee Carruthers
Office Location: SS232
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Web Page: See course page via D2L
Office Hours: Fridays 2-4PM

Course Description

This course focuses on the films of Alfred Hitchcock, analyzing the director's distinctive style and concerns as these tendencies illuminate wider issues of film aesthetics, history, and interpretation. Surveying Hitchcock's filmmaking practice from the silent era to the 1970s—with special emphasis on questions related to technology, optics, and visual culture; spectatorship and psychoanalysis; and cultural and aesthetic theory—the course offers students the opportunity to view the director's most essential films and to situate these works within a compelling history of international film style. As essential supplements, we will also consider titles by Fritz Lang, Otto Preminger, and more contemporary directors, to contextualize and clarify Hitchcock's contribution to cinema as well as his enduring legacy. A special focus of this year's course will be issues of gender and the essential creative contribution of Alma Reville to Hitchcock's work.

Additional Information

This course assumes and requires your familiarity with basic film terms. For your ongoing reference, a 6-page Glossary of Formal Terms will be provided on D2L, under 'Course Documents.' You will be expected to use these terms, and to deploy basic film-analytical skills, in class discussion, online postings, and assignments.

Objectives of the Course

This course has three main objectives:

1. Specifically, to examine a range of films by director Alfred Hitchcock so as to discern the stylistic and thematic preoccupations evidenced across his work.
2. More generally, to enrich and extend our film-analytical and critical skills, allowing us to approach Hitchcock's films as complex, aesthetic, and historical objects.
3. Finally, to reflect upon the enduring appeal of Hitchcock's work as it frames larger conceptual issues related to seeing, being, and knowing.

Viewing Requirements

The weekly screenings for this course are scheduled on **Mondays 2:00 - 4:45PM**. Please note that attendance at *all* screenings is required. For repeat viewings and/or close analysis, the films are held at the TFDL and may be viewed on site; additionally, some course titles may be available online. 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 help to 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 D2L site to submit a detailed **screening note** about the weekly film(s). 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 (Friday 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.

Textbooks and Readings:

There is no single textbook for this course; the required readings comprise a wide selection, and will be available on D2L under Course Documents. Please note that the assigned reading is an *essential* component of the course: failure to complete the readings consistently every week will substantially impact your grade.

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 grade. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted during screenings or lectures: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid embarrassment, annoyance, and irreversible participation grade penalties.

Assignments and Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| Reading Quizzes (5 dates: 4 count for marks)* | weekly | 20% |
| D2L posts & In-class discussion | weekly | 15% |
| Midterm (short film analysis, in-class) | Week 7, March 6 th | 25% |
| Final Essay | last day of class, April 10 th | 40% |

(A paper that deploys the available scholarly literature and performs film-textual analysis, 1500 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 10, by March 27th. Topics should be approved in advance by the instructor.)

* 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' unless there is a documented illness; 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. Come to class prepared!

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Note: 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 the 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. Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at marked final exams in SS 320. 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 and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

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.

Student Accommodations and Deferrals

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework 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 www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or for 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, please see the following:

- Section N.1 of the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>
- FAQs for Students at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals/student-faq>

Note that when accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to that of another assignment or test.

For information on deferrals, see the following sections in the *University Calendar*:

- Section G.7 Deferral of Term Work at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>
- Section G.6 Deferral of Final Exam at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

Grading & Grade Scale of the Dept. of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Quizzes will be assessed with point grades; midterm assignment and final essays will receive letter grades. Participation and Discussion Board contributions will receive a point score. The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of

Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

| 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% |

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

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. 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 support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library). Visit the website for more details: www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

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 at www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436. Research and citation resources are also available on the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website at www.owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/. If you have questions about citing sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at 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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

| For information about . . . | Visit or contact . . . |
|---|--|
| ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC) | SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@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 | https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ 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. |

A complete schedule of the course screenings, lectures, and readings will be provided when the course begins.