

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

Film Studies (FILM) 403-01
The Cinema of Terrence Malick

Fall 2014

Sep 8 2014 ~ Dec 3, 2014

Screenings (labs): Mon 1:00PM - 3:45PM in SS203

Lectures: Wed 2:00PM - 3:50PM in SS203

Instructor: Dr. Lee Carruthers

Office: SS232

Office Phone: (403) 210-8858

E-Mail: lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca

Web Page: Course page via D2L available through MyUofC portal

Office Hours: Fridays, 2-4PM. Please email to set an appointment.

Course Description

This course focuses on the cinema of Terrence Malick, analyzing the director's distinctive style and concerns as these tendencies illuminate wider issues of film aesthetics, film history, and film-philosophy. Surveying Malick's filmmaking practice from the 1970s to the present—with special emphasis upon the critically acclaimed title, *The Tree of Life* (2011)—the course offers students the opportunity to view Malick's entire film corpus while situating his work within a compelling history of international film style. To this end, we will consider Malick's films in relation to classical and contemporary American cinema, the European art cinema, and in terms of experimental film practice, screening titles from diverse directors such as Michelangelo Antonioni, Jean-Luc Godard, Alfred Hitchcock, Stanley Kubrick, Arthur Penn, Orson Welles, Stan Brakhage, and others.

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 Blackboard, 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 Terrence Malick 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 Malick's films as complex aesthetic and historical objects.
3. Finally, to reflect upon the significance of Malick's work as it frames larger philosophical issues and illuminates critical and cultural trends of the contemporary context.

Textbooks and Readings

All readings for this course will be made available electronically. The course schedule will specify the required reading for the week: the course webpage, via D2L, will provide access to the required texts.

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 participation grade. 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, annoyance, and irreversible participation grade penalties.

Assignments and Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (5 dates: 4 count for marks)* 20%	Weekly
Blackboard posts & In-class discussion 20%	Weekly
Midterm 20% (short film + critical analysis, in-class)	Week 7, Oct 22 nd

Final Essay
40%

Week 13, Dec. 3rd

(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 9, by November 5th.)

* 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'; 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.

Viewing Requirements

The weekly screenings for this course are scheduled on Mondays from 1:00PM - 3:45PM. Please note that attendance at *all* screenings is required. For repeat viewings and/or close analysis, the films are held at the Media Library (3rd floor, TFDL) and may be viewed there; additionally, some 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 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 Blackboard 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.

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 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. 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 may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

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.ualgary.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.ualgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System & Dept of Communication and Culture Grade Scale
Work in this course will be graded using letter grades. 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	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%

	subsequent courses in the same subject			
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 . . .
ARTSPROGRAMADVISING (PIC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 picarts@ucalgary.ca
<p>CAMPUS SECURITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calgary Police Service • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	<p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333</p> <p>403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</p> <p>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/</p>
<p>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	<p>http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</p> <p>403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca</p>
<p>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	<p>http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</p>
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>

<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SUWellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>
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Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A complete schedule of screenings + readings will be made available when classes begin.