

University of Calgary
Department of Communication and Culture

FILM 409.5
Special Topics in Film Studies: (Technologies of Cinema)
Fall 2014

Lecture: Wednesday 9:00 – 10:50

Lab: Monday 9:00 – 11:45

Instructor: Murray Leeder
Office: SS 220
Office Phone: 403-220-3381
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Web Page: <http://> D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Wednesday 13:00 – 16:00

Course Description

This course explores the complex relationship between cinema and technology, and in particular how technological developments and changes shape and challenge our idea of cinema as an art form and as a medium of representation. It will also relate cinema to broader narratives and histories of technology and culture.

Additional Information

Attendance at lectures, screenings and tutorials, and informed participation are essential components of this course and will help determine your final grade. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the required reading.

Objectives of the Course

Students will gain insight into the history and philosophy of film technology, and hone their analytical and writing skills.

Textbooks and Readings

Camera Lucida (Roland Barthes)
Pandora's Digital Box (David Bordwell) -- ebook
Other readings provided electronically

Additional Information

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WHAT YOU MUST DO EVERY WEEK TO DO WELL IN THE COURSE:

- Read the weekly material assigned.
- Take notes while you read.
- Bring the readings to class, both lecture and discussion, so you can refer back to the readings if needed.
- Always bring your syllabus to class to get a sense of where we are in the evolution of the course.
- Try not to miss any lectures and discussion groups.
- Even if you have seen the scheduled film already, you should watch it again and refresh your memory. “I have seen this film several times,” is not an excuse for not attending class or leaving before the screening.
- Develop the ability to take concise notes that capture the *essence* of the lecture. I will sometimes include lengthy quotes in my powerpoint slides.
- Go over your notes and reading(s) right after each week’s lecture on Monday.

CLASSROOM DECORUM:

- Return to your seat on time after taking a short break after the lecture and before the screening. The short break is usually about **10 minutes**, sufficient for going to the washroom or stretching a bit, but not for going to the cafeteria.
- Don’t chat with your friends during classes and screenings. **And turn off your cell phone.**

Assignments and Evaluation

20% In-Class Presentation

Every student is responsible for **one** in-class presentation on an essay we read during the course. Each will be of roughly 15-20 minutes, and take the following form:

First, the student will sum up the article main points and claims. This will be roughly half of the presentation.

Second, the student will discuss the article’s strength and limitations, while drawing some connections between the article and the film screened that week.

Finally, the student should provide a few provocative questions and be prepared to lead discussion for a time.

These will generally be held on the **Wednesday** meetings, and a sign-in sheet will be distributed early in the course.

15% Paper: Theories of Technology (due September 29)

The student will offer a reading of one of the first three films that we watch connecting it to one our readings from the first three weeks. It will be structured as follows:

1/3 – summary of the essay’s main arguments

1/3 – your own evaluation of its effectiveness (its uses and limitations, in terms of ideas)
1/3 – an application to one of the films. Address how the film and the article help elucidate each other

Length: 6-7 pages.

25% Research Paper (due November 12)

This paper will deal with one or more of the topics studied in the class, but will also require outside study. A list of topics will be submitted early in the course.

Length: 7-8 pages.

30% Position Paper: The Digital (due December 3)

The student will take a position as to whether the digital (in terms of digital photography, projection, etc.) has fundamentally changed cinema to the extent that we can no longer think of it as the same technology as traditional photochemical film. The student may take any position he or she wishes, and will be judged on his or her ability to explain existing debates in the field and extend them with relevant evidence from both readings and films.

Length: 8-9 pages.

10% Participation Mark (ongoing)

Students are expected to both attend both lectures and labs and participate in classroom discussion. Marks will be assigned determined by the quality and volume of participation.

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.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 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 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 • Calgary Police Service	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	<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 SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Schedule of Lecture and Readings will be made available on D2L once the course commences in September.