

**Film Studies (FILM) 591 – Lecture 01**  
**Senior Seminar in Film Studies**  
**Winter 2012**  
**Screening: Monday 15:00-17:50**  
**Lecture: Wednesday: 15:00-16:50**

**Instructor:** Dr. Charles Tepperman  
**Office**  
**Location:** SS 238  
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**Office Hours:** TBA

**Course Description**

Topic: Unpacking a Film Collection

This is a research-oriented seminar that uses the examination of a newly acquired 16mm film collection as a way of thinking about questions related to film collections, canons and cinephelia. Students will help catalog and contextualize the collection of 16mm films, considering issues related to the material history of media, how films are presented and consumed, and how we organize them conceptually and historically. Among the questions we will investigate are: Is it important to have a film canon? What kinds of film collections are there? How do alternatives to feature, theatrical film work to reinforce or contest canons? What are film collections and archives for, and what effect do new technologies have on them?

**Additional Information**

Attendance at both lectures and screenings, 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 films and required reading.

Some of the materials and topics presented in class may include explicit content (sex, violence or language). If these materials make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. You will not be exempt from any class assignments but we will work together to accommodate your concerns. This class respects difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical discussions about their representations and discourses in film and popular culture.

**Objectives of the Course**

The goal of this course is to introduce a range of historical, theoretical and analytic tools for a consideration of film collections. Each of these categories implies a different way of understanding the film text and film culture, and therefore requires a different research methodology. Consequently, a significant objective of this course is to develop the

necessary skills and critical approaches for determining which of these methods and theories are most salient or productive in particular kinds of film studies research. Successful students in this course will learn not only how to synthesize and analyze these different approaches, but also how to put them into practice in self-directed research projects. Students will also develop the skills necessary to examine and contextualize a collection of 16mm films, as well as related curatorial and programming roles.

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

This course observes a strict laptop and cell phone policy. Laptops are for note-taking only. Anyone found using their laptop for email, unauthorized browsing, etc. will jeopardize their participation grade. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted during class time: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

Readings available via Blackboard and U of C Library.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

Class participation 10%

In-class discussion is an essential component of the course. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the readings and screenings. Class participation grades will be evaluated based on the quality of your contributions to in-class discussions.

Seminar Presentation (Weekly, Jan 25-April 4) 25%

Each student will present and lead class discussion on one of the assigned readings during the term. In addition to providing a close reading of the article, the presenter should thoroughly research the reading and be able to present at least some of its scholarly and theoretical context. The use of specific media examples for analysis and illustration is encouraged but the presentation will be substantially oral. Presentation and discussion should be 15-20 minutes long.

Film Introduction and Program Notes (Weekly, Jan 16-April 9) 25%

Each student will introduce and provide program notes for a film from the collection at one of our regular weekly screenings. In order to prepare for the screening, the student will have to preview the film selected and inspect its physical condition. The program notes will include a report on the film's physical properties, as well as a one-page analysis of the work itself, its production context, and critical reputation.

Final research paper (Topic presentation, April 11; Essay due April 13) 40%

An essay 10-12 pages in length that researches some aspect of the film collection's context. The paper may be on a topic chosen from a list provided by the instructor, or on a topic of your choice that has been approved by the instructor. Detailed instructions will be provided early in the term. Students will give a brief presentation of their research topics on the last day of class (April 11).

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

Note: 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.

### **Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO**

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

### **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:

(Revised, effective September 2008)

	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

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 (MacEwan Student Centre 4<sup>th</sup> floor, [efwr.ucalgary.ca](http://efwr.ucalgary.ca)) 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**

Will be posted on Blackboard.