

FILM 201-01
Introduction to Film Studies
Fall 2011

Lecture/Screening:	L-01 R 17:00-19:50
	T-01 R 20:00-20:50
Tutorials:	B-01 F 09:00-09:50
	B-02 F 10:00-10:50
	B-03 F 11:00-11:50
	B-04 F 12:00-12:50
	B-05 F 13:00-13:50
	B-06 F 14:00-14:50

Instructor: Brendan Kredell
Office Location: SS 220
Office Phone: 220-3381
E-Mail: bkredell@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: R 14:00-16:00 or by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Peter Hemminger (peterhemminger@gmail.com)
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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. 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.

Course Description

*An introduction to the main issues involved in studying and analyzing film including medium, story, photography, mise-en-scene, movement, editing, sound, and acting. Intended to prepare students for further work in film studies. **Antirequisite: Credit for both FILM 200 and FILM 201 will not be allowed.***

This course introduces basic concepts of film analysis, which are discussed through examples from different national cinemas, genres, and directorial oeuvres. Along with questions of film technique and style, we consider the notion of the cinema as an

institution that comprises an industrial system of production, social and aesthetic norms and codes, and particular modes of reception.

Objectives of the Course

Here we will set a simple, yet ambitious, objective. As an introductory-level course in film studies, we will learn the fundamental ideas and theories of film analysis. There is much ground to cover; by the end of the course students will be conversant in the language and theory of film study. Students will apply their theoretical understanding of film to the production of critical analysis.

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Produce a sustained written analysis that incorporates ideas that are introduced during the course
- Demonstrate their mastery of the critical concepts introduced in the course by producing a formal analysis that correctly employs relevant terminology as necessary
- Write a term paper that follows all appropriate academic protocol

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic notetaking devices in this course. That being said, the classroom is a space for learning, and I expect that students' behaviour will reflect a shared appreciation for the importance of an open and high-level discourse within the classroom. Towards that end, the use of laptops should be strictly limited to the purposes of taking notes. **Laptops (and all other electronic devices) are expressly prohibited during course screenings.** Likewise, mobile phones and other devices are prohibited at all times. Failure to respect these rules may result in a lower participation grade, or revocation of your privileges to use devices in the classroom.

Textbooks and Readings:

David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction*. 9th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010.

Other readings as posted on Blackboard

Assignments and Evaluation

Date/Assignment

Weight

Ongoing

Participation

10%

The participation grade for this course will be assessed with two components. First, students will be evaluated on their active and informed participation in weekly tutorial sections. Secondly, students will be required to write weekly response essays (250-300 words) for the films screened in class. Films are screened at the conclusion of lecture on

Thursdays; these essays are due prior to the beginning of lecture the following Thursday and should be submitted via Blackboard.

September 30

Quiz #1 (Mise-en-scène and Cinematography) (administered in tutorial) 5%
Multiple-choice assessment based on the readings and lectures from Weeks 2-3.

October 14

Quiz #2 (Editing) (administered in tutorial) 5%
Multiple-choice assessment based on the readings and lectures from Weeks 4-5.

October 28

Quiz #3 (Sound and Narration) (administered in tutorial) 5%
Multiple-choice assessment based on the readings and lectures from Weeks 6-7.

November 3

Mid-term Examination 20%
The mid-term examination will comprise multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay-type questions, and will cover material from Weeks 1-7.

December 2

Final Paper proposal (250-300 words) 5%
Students are required to submit a proposal in advance of writing their final paper, explaining the film and sequence they have chosen, and what argument they anticipate making regarding that sequence. Proposals should be submitted to Blackboard prior to class; written feedback will be provided before the end of the term.

December 9

Final Paper (1000-1500 words) 20%
The final paper will be a sequence analysis, using the tools and vocabulary that we have developed over the course of the semester. More information will be provided when the assignment for this paper is handed out, after the mid-term.

December, TBD

Final Examination (to be scheduled by registrar) 30%
The final examination for the course will follow the same structure of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay-type questions that the mid-term did. While the multiple-choice and short answer sections of the test are NOT cumulative (i.e. they assess material covered in lecture and in readings from Weeks 8-13), in order to successfully write the exam students will need to demonstrate mastery of concepts from both halves of the semester.

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: Yes

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 will be penalized with the loss of one-third of a letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. Quizzes and examinations will not be rescheduled except in the case of medical emergencies. Students without proper medical documentation will not be permitted to make up missed quizzes or examinations.

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

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 4th floor, 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.