

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**FILM 307 (L01): Topic in Cinema and Gender Studies (Transnational Women's Film)**

**Winter 2022: January 10 to April 12 (excluding Feb. 20-26)**

**Screening: Tues. 3:30 to 6:15**

**Lecture: Thurs. 3:30 to 5:20**

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR IN-PERSON COURSE DELIVERY**

**Note:** This course will be delivered in-person. If you are unable to participate in-class owing to time differences or geographical location, please arrange to take this course in a future term.

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Arti Modgill
<b>Email:</b>	arti.modgill2@ucalgary.ca
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 9:30am to 11:30am ( <i>via zoom</i> )

**Course Description**

Through the critical analysis of films as visual texts, students will learn about the emergence of women's world cinema as well as analytical frameworks for examining these works, including feminist transnationalism, post-colonialism, diasporic cinema studies. In conjunction with the study of films from polycentric world cinema sites, students will examine a range of theoretical texts which offer conceptual frameworks to guide their analysis of women's film production and the representation of gender on screen.

**Additional Information**

The weekly schedule of topics and readings can be found on D2L. Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Please note that we will be viewing, reading, and discussing some challenging material in this course that may involve coarse language, discussion of sexist rhetoric and discriminatory practices, and depictions of gender-based violence. In addition, we will look at the intersections of gender, race, and cultural identities in our discussions of transnational films and texts.

This course offers a combination of lecture, class discussion, and some small group discussion. Coming to class having read the assigned readings and prepared to discuss the material in a respectful, informed manner is essential to success in this course.

## **Objectives of the Course**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand how these films and their female filmmakers can be interpreted through the lens of feminist criticism
- Discuss how notions of gender and culture have been defined and shaped these films' narratives
- Identify how these films respond to practices of gender construction and discourses that shape perceptions about women both locally and globally
- Discuss whether any of these films or narratives are problematic when subject to feminist critique
- Consider how historical, cultural, and industrial factors have shaped the work of female filmmakers

## **Textbooks and Readings**

Course readings will be made available on the FILM 307 L01 website in D2L.

## **Learning Technologies and Requirements**

In order to complete courses, University of Calgary students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates, with current antivirus software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection, and a current and updated web browser;
- A webcam (built-in or external), and a microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone (for online courses only).

If you need access to other software programs to complete assignments, your instructor will provide relevant information and links.

If you have technical difficulties, contact IT support services. See

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/student-campus-services-information-technologies-it.html>

## **Mark Allocation**

Participation	Weekly	10%
Critical Reading Response	Feb. 1	25%
Film Review	Mar. 8	25%
Final Essay	Apr. 12	40%

## **Assessments**

### **Participation**

Attendance and informed participation are essential components that will significantly determine your final grade. To succeed in the course, you must complete the assigned reading before the weekly lecture so you can make informed contributions to discussion.

This class involves both challenging film themes and ideas which you are not expected to be able to unpack on your own. Therefore attendance, class participation, and completion of the readings are absolutely necessary. Lecture content will usually move beyond the week's assigned readings, so students will need to have read the required materials by the

Thursday lecture in order for the class experience to remain meaningful. Class participation grades will be evaluated based on the quality of your contributions to in-class discussions and/or the completion of short in-class assignments.

### **Critical Reader Response**

Students will complete a critical reading response (5 pages) which discusses concepts from at least two course readings. This short writing piece will be evaluated for its critical engagement with ideas, texts, and authors on the syllabus. The responses must use a close reading-based interpretive approach to generate an argument about a text or idea. All responses should identify a critical problem or question that a text poses, suggest an answer to it, and then explain the significance of that answer to how one reads and interprets the text.

More information on this assignment will be discussed in class and the instructions will be posted to D2L.

### **Film Analysis**

Students will select one film from weeks 1 to 7 (Jan. 10 – Mar. 4) for their film analysis paper (5 pages). The goal of this assignment is to closely read the visual text and discuss aspects of narrative, characterization, genre, form, and cultural contexts to discuss how the film and filmmakers respond to discourses of gender construction. This short writing piece will be evaluated for its critical engagement with the film as a visual text. The film analysis must discuss aspects of the film to generate an argument about a film or its ideas about gender.

More information on this assignment will be discussed in class and the instructions will be posted to D2L.

### **Final Analytical Essay**

Students will write a research essay of 8 to 10 pages which situates a film from the course within Women's World Cinema, by applying analytical frameworks including feminist transnationalism, post-colonialism, and diasporic cinema studies to analyse female film production, and the representation of gender on screen. The selected film must not be the same one discussed in their film analysis paper. This final writing project will draw on and bring together aspects of the first two writing assignments.

More information on this assignment will be discussed in class and instructions will be posted to D2L. Students are strongly advised to visit the instructor during office hours to get guidance on their essay and discuss their topic and thesis prior to writing the essay.

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

**Note:** All major assignments (worth 10 percent or more) must be completed, or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Failing grades on individual assignments may be averaged out to a final passing grade by other assessment components.

### **Submission of Assignments**

Please submit all assignments by uploading them to the designated D2L *dropbox before the start of each class in which they are due*. Include your name, course, and instructor's name

on all assignments. Be sure to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to submit the proper version.

Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recording for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of 5% or a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. Essays more than one week late will not be accepted without prior approval of the instructor. In the event of a serious illness, please contact me immediately about an extension.

### **Policy on the use of Electronic Communication Devices**

Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones may be used in class and tutorials only for course-related purposes and only if their use is not distracting others or negatively impacting the learning environment. **No audio or video recording is allowed in any class without the instructor's explicit permission.**

### **Taking notes**

Research studies have shown that handwritten class notes are markedly superior in terms of acquiring a more thorough understanding of course material and for retention of material in one's memory. Keep in mind that it is the student's responsibility to take notes. (In other words, notes are not given but taken.) Sometimes students assume that notes should be taken only when there is a PowerPoint Presentation on the screen, but this is not true.

### **Email**

Email is most useful for short, specific inquiries. If you have detailed questions on the course material, assignments, or grades, visit the instructor during office hours. The instructor will respond to emails during the week, usually on a first-come, first-served basis. Emails sent in the evening or on weekends will not be read (or replied to) until the next working day.

When corresponding with the instructor via email, students should include the course name (ex. FILM 307) in the subject line. If you do not include the course name in your email's subject line, your message may get overlooked in the instructor's inbox and go unread. Please maintain a respectful tone in your correspondence with the instructor.

**NOTE: Email submissions of work will not be accepted unless otherwise specified.**

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/). Students who require an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. For the full policy on Student Accommodations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require a medical note. For information on the use of a statutory declaration, see the *University Calendar*: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

### Expectations for Writing

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses 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 and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

In this course, letter grades will be used for written assignments.

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%

<b>0.00</b>	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	<b>F</b>	0 - 49.99%	0%
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\* Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

## 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. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

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.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support> or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/resources.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html)

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

## Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including lectures, course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

To ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes & electronic versions of textbooks), all students are required to read the *University of Calgary Policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright* at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and the requirements of the *Copyright Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

## **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, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics>

## **Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal**

For university regulations and procedures related to deferral of term work, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

For information about deferrals of final examinations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

For information about requesting a reappraisal of course work or of a final grade, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

## **Student Support Services and Resources**

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk. For resources on D2L, Zoom, Yuja, etc., see <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

## **Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings**

See the course website on D2L for the scheduled of topics and readings.