

University of Calgary  
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Film Studies (FILM) 331-01

*Film Theory up to 1950*

Fall 2018

September 6~December 7 2018

(excluding November 11-17)

Screenings (Labs): Mondays 12:00PM - 2:45PM

Lectures: Wednesdays 12:00PM - 1:50PM

SS203

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Lee Carruthers
<b>Office:</b>	SS 232
<b>Office Phone:</b>	210-8858
<b>E-Mail:</b>	lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays, 2:45-4:45PM

### Course Description

This course surveys the first broad phase of theoretical writings on cinema, sometimes referred to as 'classical film theory.' As such, we will examine an extensive range of critical and theoretical commentary, engaging with fundamental questions about the film medium: what is the proper material, or 'essence' of cinema? What are its key methods and techniques? Is it an art equal to the other arts? What forms can cinema take, and what are the medium's possibilities? What can be considered the purpose or value of cinema? How do films affect individual viewers and culture at large? By taking this course, students will become familiar with the significant concepts and debates that constitute early film theory, while fulfilling the course objectives outlined below.

### Additional Information

As a course with a prerequisite, (FILM 201), this class assumes and requires your familiarity with **basic film terms**. For your reference, a 6-page *Glossary of Formal Terms* will be provided on the online course page. You are expected to use this vocabulary correctly in class discussion and in your written assignments.

### Objectives of the Course

This course has four overlapping aims:

1. To become familiar with the core issues of early film theory.
2. To become a sophisticated reader, engaging closely and critically with film-theoretical texts.
3. To discern relationships between the course readings and the weekly film screenings: what does each text reveal about the other?
4. To write clearly and authoritatively about films and film-theoretical issues, and thus to share in ongoing debates about the medium.

### Textbooks and Readings

Purchase from the University Bookstore:

- *Critical Visions in Film Theory: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Edited by Timothy Corrigan, Patricia White with Meta Mazaj. (Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2011). Designated as 'CVFT' on the course schedule.

**Additional required readings** are accessible via **D2L**, designated as such on the course schedule.

**Internet and electronic communication device information**

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

**Viewing Requirements**

**Students are required to attend all course screenings.** If you miss one, it is your responsibility to view the film(s) on your own time: they are available at the TFDL for this purpose; you may also be able to find them via credible online sources for some titles. These resources are *not* a substitute for the scheduled screenings, but may prove helpful for review purposes.

**Reading Requirements**

The reading materials of this course are challenging and cannot be mastered quickly or superficially. Please set aside sufficient time to complete the readings every week and to reflect upon their content. If you find the texts difficult (and you will— theoretical writings are by nature 'tricky'), *highlight the specific words and/or passages in question and raise these issues in class*. Other students will have similar questions, and will benefit from hearing yours. With consistent time and effort, completing the readings every week and engaging in discussion about them, the material will become quite accessible.

**Participation Requirements**

Attendance and informed participation are essential components of this class and will significantly determine your final grade. To succeed in the course, you must complete the assigned reading *before* class every week, so as to make informed contributions to discussion. There is also a simple task to be completed on a weekly basis, as follows:

After the Monday screening, and before the weekly deadline (cut-off time is Friday at 8PM unless otherwise specified), go to the course **D2L** site to submit a **brief response** to the film + weekly reading. There will be a general question or prompt for you to work with: in order to receive marks, your post must answer the question specifically and substantially. About a paragraph or so in length, your response should focus on a detail or raise a specific issue that you'd be willing to say more about in class. Please note that cursory, vague, or irrelevant commentary will not be credited.

**Assignments and Evaluation**

Grades will be determined as follows:

<b>D2L + In-class discussion</b>	weekly	15%
<b>Reading Quiz (readings weeks 2, 3, 4)</b>	Week 4, Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	15%
<b>Midterm (short answer test)</b>	Week 8, October 31 <sup>st</sup>	30%
<b>Final Exam (Multiple choice: all course materials)</b>	scheduled by Registrar	40%

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: YES**

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

**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 instructor. 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 marked final exams in SS 320. 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/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

**Note:** It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted (particularly in courses requiring electronic submission). Including a version date in your file name may be useful.

**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.

**Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional 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 in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.
- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.
- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html> and <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

## Grading System + Dept of Communication and Culture Grade Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades, except for the final exam, which will be given a percentage grade. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in Communication and Culture:

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%
0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	F	0 - 49.99%	0%

\* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

\*\* These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

### 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. 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 support services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Taylor Family Digital Library). Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

### 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 <https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436>. Research and citation resources are also available on the website of the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>. If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or visit the writing support services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Taylor Family Digital Library, at <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 (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics>

### Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca">artsads@ucalgary.ca</a>
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation + Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>
SU WELLNESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services</li> <li>• Health Services</li> <li>• Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</li> <li>• Online resources and tips</li> </ul>	403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a> 403-266-HELP (4357) <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a> 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.

The full schedule of course films + readings will be made available

on D2L before classes begin.