University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Film Studies (FILM) 333-01: *Film Theory after 1950*
F2021: September 7~December 9
(Excluding Sept. 30, Oct. 11, Nov. 7-13)

Screenings: non-synchronous
(Watch the films before the lecture; access via D2L.)
Lectures: Wednesdays, 3:00-4:50PM via Zoom
(Combined lecture + synchronous discussion every week)

IMPORTANT NOTE ON COURSE DELIVERY

Asynchronous & Synchronous Course Components: Please read this outline carefully to see which course components will be offered synchronously (where you are expected to participate in person or online at the usual scheduled course time) and which components will be offered asynchronously (to be completed on your own time). Synchronous sessions hosted on Zoom can be accessed on D2L by clicking on the Communications tab and selecting Zoom.

Note: If you will not be able to participate in synchronous in-class or online class sessions owing to time differences or geographical location, then consult with the instructor to see if accommodation is possible or arrange to take this course in a future term.

Online Quizzes and Exams: You will be allowed a minimum window of 24 hours to access online quizzes and exams, but there may be a time limit for completing a quiz once you open it. Read the description carefully. The time specified for any timed online assessments includes 50% extra time.

Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
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Web Page:	D2L
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 1-2PM via Zoom: email to reserve a time.

Course Description
This course surveys significant theoretical writings on cinema produced from 1950 to the present. We will examine an extensive range of critical commentary, considering the ways film has been conceived as a narrative system; as a language; as technology/apparatus; as a vehicle of ideology; as a medium of resistance; and as an occasion to reflect upon historical and philosophical issues. In taking this course, students will become familiar with the significant concepts and debates of academic film theory, while fulfilling the course aims named below.

Important course format information
This course is a hybrid format. Screenings are **asynchronous:** films can be accessed via D2L and viewed at a time that is convenient for you **before the weekly lectures**. Please note that you are required to watch all course films in advance of the lecture time. (If you miss a film, it may be available through the TFDL; check the online catalogue. But in general, adhering to the weekly screening schedule is a requirement of the course, just as the assigned readings are.) **Lectures** are **synchronous**, presented via zoom every **Wednesday between 3:00-4:50PM**. These synchronous sessions will not be recorded, so weekly attendance is critical to your success in the course. It is expected that you **turn video on during class time** to facilitate discussion. Please see the section

on Learning Technologies below concerning these requirements. If a medical issue or other urgent situation occurs during the course week, notify the instructor ASAP.

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 is provided on D2L under 'Course Documents.' Students are expected to use this vocabulary correctly in class discussion and in written assignments.

Objectives of the Course
This course has four overlapping objectives:
- To become familiar with the core issues of contemporary film theory.
- To become a sophisticated reader, engaging closely and critically with film-theoretical texts.
- To discern relationships between the course readings and the weekly film screenings: what does each text reveal about the other?
- To write clearly and authoritatively about films and film-theoretical issues, and thus to share in ongoing debates about film and media.

Textbooks and Readings
There are two sources of required readings:
- **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). Readings from this text are designated as '**CVFT**' on the course schedule.
- **Online:** Additional required readings are accessible on the **D2L** course page via links or as downloadable PDFs. These are designated as '**D2L**' on the course schedule.

Reading Requirements
The reading materials of this course are challenging and cannot be mastered quickly or superficially. You will need to 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. If your schedule doesn't permit this kind of focused commitment, however, FILM 333 is not for you.

Participation Requirements
Attendance and informed participation are essential components of this course and will 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 you watch the weekly film(s), go to the course **D2L** page to submit a brief response to the screening + weekly readings. There will be a general question or prompt there for you to work with, and some helpful instructions. About a paragraph in length, your response should make a clear connection between the film and the weekly topics.

Learning Technologies and Requirements
In order to complete online (or blended) 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.

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

Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

Do not use electronic devices for email, texting, or unauthorized browsing during class time or you will jeopardize your participation grade. No photographic, audio, or video recording is permitted without the instructor's permission.

Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on the recording of lectures, which is outlined at https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html, and carefully review the section on Instructor Copyright at the end of this outline.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
20%	**In-class discussion + D2L** These marks derive from two course activities: posting weekly commentary on D2L about the course materials (see 'Participation Requirements' above) and making informed contributions to discussion in class every week.	Weekly, in-class + posted to D2L
15%	**Week 4 Quiz** An in-class quiz covering the readings assigned weeks 2,3,4	Week 4 Sept. 29
25%	**Midterm** A short answer test, written in-class, based on excerpts from the assigned readings.	Week 8 October 27
40%	**Final Essay** A paper that engages the course readings and films to demonstrate a clear understanding of select film theories. 1500 words in length; complete instructions will be provided in Week 11.	Week 13 (Dec. 8)

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Note: You must complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If you miss a required course component, contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Submission of Assignments
Please submit all assignments to the designated D2L Dropbox. Include your name and ID number 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 will 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); 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/. 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, final grades and the final essay are reported as letter grades; the quiz, midterm test, and participation grades will be scored numerically.

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%

* 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

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 copy-right 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, Readings, and Screenings
will be posted on the D2L course page when the course begins.**