

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film
FILM 409.13 L01: Special Topics in Film Studies (*Film Analysis*)
Winter 2022: January 10 to April 12
(excluding February 20-26)

Screenings: Wednesdays, 2:00PM - 4:45PM
Lectures: Fridays, 1:00PM - 2:50PM
SS203

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. **Because course activities are synchronous, recorded resources (films, lectures) will not be provided.**

Instructor:	Dr. Lee Carruthers
Office:	SS232
Email:	lee.carruthers@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Fridays, 3-5PM (in-person or online). Email for an appointment.

Course Description

This advanced topics course offers students the opportunity to refine and expand their skills in film analysis through the investigation of selected readings and films, spanning North American and global film practice from the silent era to the present. Building on the foundational vocabulary learned in FILM 201, the course re-examines the core analytical units of cinema (image, shot, segment, sequence); key aspects of formal technique (mise-en-scène, montage, camera movement); and varied filmic systems (narrative, experimental and documentary forms, colour and sound design), emphasizing both accurate and original assessment. Exemplary films and scholarly writings form the centre of the course, serving as essential models for analyzing, describing, and theorizing cinema's elements and effects. Weekly course activities will combine independent tasks with occasional group work, focusing on analysis and interpretation as well as critical reading and writing. Upon completion, students will have developed a flexible and personalized film-analytical practice that can be deployed successfully in future course assignments.

Additional Information

Given the specialized nature of this course topic, it is assumed that students are familiar with and able to use a basic film-analytical vocabulary. For support, a glossary of film terms will be provided via D2L for use in all course activities and assignments. Students are responsible for reading and following all course and University policies discussed in this outline. Small changes to the schedule may be communicated during the lecture and/or via email: be sure to attend to these updates.

Objectives of the Course

Students will work to develop the following competences:

- To observe filmic elements with clarity and precision, noting specificities and viewing effects
- To understand and emulate significant models of film analysis and criticism
- To become a skilled interpreter, making credible connections between filmic details and meanings
- To write clearly and compellingly about film style, relating its forms to broader historical, conceptual, and cultural phenomena.

Viewing Requirements

The weekly screenings for this course are scheduled on **Wednesdays, 2:00PM - 4:45PM**. Please note that attendance at *all* screenings is required. For repeat viewings and/or close analysis, some titles may be available at the TFDL and/or online. These resources are not a substitute for the scheduled screenings, but may prove helpful for assignments.

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 screening note. 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 weekly topics.

Textbooks and Readings:

There is no single textbook for this course; the required readings comprise a wide selection and will be available in the D2L Content Area. Please note that the assigned reading is an *essential* component of the course: failure to complete the readings consistently every week will substantially impact your grade. Readings listed as '**Online**' may have limited user access via the University library: you should download and print these articles right away, retaining a copy for your records. Before attempting to access any online reading, be sure that you are **signed into** the system.

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>

Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

Laptops are for note-taking only. Using a laptop for email or unauthorized browsing during class time will jeopardize your grade. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted during screenings or lectures: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid embarrassment, annoyance, and irreversible participation grade penalties. 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

Grades will be determined as follows:

- **Reading Quizzes** (5 dates: 4 count for marks) weekly 20%
These straightforward quizzes are designed to confirm your familiarity with the weekly readings and topics. On occasion, they will ask you to analyze a filmic detail or excerpt that relates to the assigned reading. These quizzes are not scheduled in advance, but rather occur on 5 separate occasions throughout the semester, usually during the lecture period. Reading Quizzes cannot be re-scheduled or 'made-up' unless your absence is documented; if you miss a quiz, the marks are forfeited. Only 4 out of 5 quizzes will count for marks, however: so, you can miss one, or discount one without penalty. Pro tip: if you come to class prepared, these quizzes will definitely improve your grade!
- **In-class discussion + D2L posts** weekly 15%
A combined score based on informed contributions to in-class discussion and weekly film notes via D2L. For more information on these tasks, please see the section on 'Participation Requirements,' above.
- **Midterm** Week 7, March 4 25%
A short film analysis, combining shot by shot annotation of a film sequence and brief discussion, totalling 5 pages.
- **Final Essay** last class, April 8 40%
A paper that deploys the available scholarly literature and performs film-textual analysis, 1500 words in length, on one of the central films or issues of the course. Detailed instructions for the successful completion of this essay will be distributed in Week 10, by March 25. Essay consultations will be available by appointment; it is strongly recommended to have your topic approved by the instructor.

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.

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments directly to the instructor or to the designated D2L Dropbox, as indicated in the assignment instructions. 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 may be penalized with the loss of 5% or a partial letter 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 are reported as letter grades. Quizzes will be assessed with point grades; midterm assignment and final essays will receive letter grades. Participation (in-class and D2L posts) will receive a point score.

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 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/resources-for-students/>. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

A detailed schedule of the lecture topics, readings, and films will be uploaded to the D2L course page when the term begins.