

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Film Studies FILM 591 L01
Senior Seminar in Film Studies
Cinematic Time
Fall 2016
September 14th-December 9th
(excluding November 10th-13th)

Screenings: Wednesdays 12:00PM - 2:45PM
Lectures: Fridays 12:00PM - 1:50PM

Instructor: Dr. Lee Carruthers
Office Location: SS232
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Web Page: See course page via D2L
Office Hours: Fridays 2-4PM

Course Description

This course explores the phenomenon of cinematic time, considered as a fundamental issue for filmic ontology; as a conditioning feature of film viewing experience; and as a significant opportunity to reflect upon the aesthetic forms and meanings of diverse filmic texts. The course performs a wide survey of filmmaking practices, moving from the silent era to the present, through Hollywood and global cinemas, and across the terrain of popular, acclaimed, and avant-garde works. In particular, we will place special emphasis upon recent trends of the contemporary art cinema (so called 'slow cinema' and its alternatives), endeavoring to contextualize such currents historically in light of longer traditions, viewing expectations, and critical practices. To this end, the course will screen and analyze works by filmmakers such as Robert Bresson, Sergei Eisenstein, Hollis Frampton, Abel Gance, D.W. Griffith, Paul Greengrass, Benjamin Heisenberg, Jia Zhangke, Doug Liman, Richard Linklater, Terrence Malick, Max Ophuls, Alain Resnais, Steven Soderbergh, Andrei Tarkovsky, Bela Tarr, Jacques Tati, Tsai Ming-liang, and others, in an effort to understand the distinctive experiences of time that cinema generates for viewers.

Additional Information

This Senior Seminar assumes and requires your familiarity with basic film terms, as well as your consistent commitment to the intellectual tasks and challenges of the course. This means that you are required to use the precise film-analytical vocabulary developed in film coursework thus far. (For your ongoing reference, a 6-page Glossary of Formal Terms will be provided on D2L under 'Course Documents.')

More substantially, this class demands your focused engagement with assigned readings, screenings, and in-class discussion. Be sure to set aside sufficient time to prepare for every class.

Objectives of the Course

This course has three main objectives:

1. Specifically, to examine the temporal forms and character of a range of films, uncovering the ways that cinematic time conditions viewing experience.
2. More generally, to enrich and extend our film-analytical, critical and interpretive skills, discerning the films' formal and thematic complexities.
3. Finally, to reflect upon cinematic time as a deep concept that potentially illuminates aesthetic, historical and philosophical dilemmas.

Viewing Requirements

The weekly screenings for this course are scheduled on **Wednesdays 12:00PM - 2:45PM**. Please note that attendance at *all* screenings is **required**. For repeat viewings and/or close analysis, the films are held at the TFDL and may be viewed on site; additionally, some course titles may be available online. These resources are not a substitute for the scheduled screenings, but may prove helpful for assignments.

Participation Requirements

Regular attendance and informed participation are essential components of this course that will help to determine your final grade. You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings, and thus prepared to discuss these materials specifically. Please note that a significant percentage of your grade is based on participation. If you do not make an informed contribution to in-class and online discussion on a weekly basis, you can expect to receive **zero** for participation: there is no other basis for this part of your grade. Besides the weekly readings + screenings, there is a simple task to be completed every week, as follows:

Every week, go to the D2L site to submit a detailed **screening note** about the weekly film(s). There will be a general question or prompt for you to discuss. Your response should be a paragraph or so in length; it should focus on a detail or raise a specific issue that you plan to talk about in class. These responses are required and must be submitted weekly before the deadline (Wednesday at 10PM, unless specified otherwise). Finally, please be advised that posts that do not respond to the prompt in a specific and thoughtful manner will not accrue marks.

Textbooks and Readings

There is no single textbook for this course: readings from diverse sources will be made available on D2L when classes begin. Please note that the assigned reading is directly tied to the tasks of the course. *If you do not complete the reading every week it is unlikely that you will succeed in FILM 591.*

Internet and electronic communication device information

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

Assignments and Evaluation

Grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (5 dates: 4 count for marks)*	weekly	20%
D2L posts & class discussion	weekly	20%
Midterm (short film + critical analysis, in-class)	Week 7, Oct. 28 th	20%
Final Essay	Week 13, Dec. 9 th	40%

(A paper that deploys the available scholarly literature and performs film-textual analysis, 2500 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 9, by November 9th. Topics should be approved in advance by the instructor.)

* The **Reading Quizzes**, listed above, are designed to confirm your familiarity with the weekly readings. As such, they will **not** be scheduled in advance but rather will happen on 5 separate occasions throughout the semester, usually during the lecture period. **Reading Quizzes cannot be rescheduled or 'made-up'; 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. Please come to class prepared.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Note: 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 the 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/secretariat/privacy> **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/.

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>

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 Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

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

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Quizzes will be assessed with point grades; midterm assignment and final essays will receive letter grades. Participation and Discussion Board contributions will receive a point score.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* *
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to 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.

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>. If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <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 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calgary Police Service• Emergency Text Messaging• Emergency Evacuation & Assembly• Safewalk Program	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333 403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911 http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT help line	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing Support Services• Student Services Mobile App	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents

<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health 403-266-HELP (4357) http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus 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.</p>

A complete schedule of screenings, lectures, and readings will be made available when classes begin.