Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:
Introduction to French Cinema

Credits:
6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:
English

Target students:
Undergraduate students from all study areas but particularly those with an interest in cinema, culture and cultural history, and film and/or visual studies

Teacher in charge of the course:
Garrett Epp, PhD, University of Alberta / Université Catholique de Lille

COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:
Students undertaking this course should normally have successfully completed at least one semester at university, or have equivalent experience. They must have some ability to work as a group and be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience. No previous background in film studies is required.

Content:
This course will provide students with an overview of French cinema and the art of cinema more generally. Cinema was born in France, and continues to occupy a central position within French culture. We will thus examine various ways of ‘reading’ a film while viewing representative works from different periods of French cinematic history, with a special emphasis on the region of northern France.

Course sessions will include:
- introduction to cinema/film studies
- cinema history
- French cinema
- French culture and history
- critical approaches to film and film analysis
- literary adaptation
- analysis of assorted film clips and still photographs
- La Grande Illusion (Renoir, 1938: Grand Illusion): one of the greatest films ever made
- La Nuit Américaine (Truffaut, 1973: Day for Night): a great film about filmmaking
• *Germinal* (Berri, 1993): a faithful adaptation of Zola’s 1885 masterpiece about a mining community in northern France
• *Un long dimanche de fiançailles* (Jeunet, 2004: *A Very Long Engagement*): a highly inventive adaptation (by the director of *Amélie*) of a best-selling novel combining war and romance
• *Bienvenue chez les Ch’tíss* (Boon, 2008: *Welcome to the Sticks*): one of France’s most popular films, and an essential introduction to the region
• Wrap-up and evaluation

Learning Outcomes:

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

• understand how to read and analyse a film
• evaluate film as a social and cultural document
• outline the basic history of cinema in France
• recognize and use some of the essential terminology of film-making and cinema studies

WORKLOAD

French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45-50 minutes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form:</th>
<th>Number of hours</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning</td>
<td><strong>39 hours</strong></td>
<td>13 sessions of 3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional field trips</td>
<td></td>
<td>Some films, including <em>Bienvenue chez les Ch’tíss</em>, may be shown outside of class time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate personal work / homework</td>
<td><strong>15 hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student total workload</td>
<td><strong>54 hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, film-viewing, group work, discussion, presentations, case-studies.

RESOURCES

All course materials will be supplied in class. Reference may be made to the following online resources:

• *A Basic Glossary of Film Terms* (to be made available to registered students)

ASSESSMENT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continuous assessment (20%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brief film reviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (60%)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Examination covering all aspects of course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (student participation...) (20%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Attendance, participation, and contribution to group discussion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2021). Changes may occur.

For updated information about course content, please contact us: lilleprograms@univ-catholille.fr