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, 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*): the first prison escape film, regularly named as one of the greatest films ever made
La Nuit Américaine (Truffaut, 1973: Day for Night): the best film ever made about filmmaking

Germinal (Berri, 1993): a faithful and affecting 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 that combines joyous romance and the grave consequences of trench warfare

Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis (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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form: Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning</th>
<th>Number of hours</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td></td>
<td>39 hours</td>
<td>13 sessions of 3 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional field trips</td>
<td></td>
<td>[The optional field trip to Dunkirk and Bergues (filming location for ...les Ch’tis) is highly recommended but not required]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approximate personal work / homework</td>
<td>15 hours</td>
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<td>Student total workload</td>
<td>54 hours</td>
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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

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<tr>
<td>Continuous assessment (20%)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brief film reviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (60%)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>Examination covering all aspects of course</td>
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<td>Others (student participation...) (20%)</td>
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<td>Attendance, participation, and contribution to group discussion</td>
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This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2019). Changes may occur.

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