

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)

Form:	Number of hours	Comments
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning	39 hours	13 sessions of 3 hours
Additional field trips		[The optional field trip to Dunkirk and Bergues (filming location for <i>...les Ch'tis</i>) is highly recommended but not required]
Approximate personal work / homework	15 hours	
Student total workload	53 hours	

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)
- <http://frankwbaker.com/mlc/language-of-film-literacy/> : a wide variety of useful links
- <https://www.scribd.com/document/92609319/Literature-reading-a-Film> : useful background
- <http://thetfs.ca/article/brief-history-film-criticism/>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/french-movie-terms-1371312> : to supplement your French lessons!

ASSESSMENT

Form	Number	Duration	Comments
Continuous assessment (20%)	5		Brief film reviews
Final exam (60%)	1	2 hours	Examination covering all aspects of course
Others (student participation...) (20%)			Attendance, participation, and contribution to group discussion

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2018). Changes may occur.

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