

## 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	<b>39 hours</b>	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
<b>Continuous assessment (20%)</b>	5		Brief film reviews
<b>Final exam (60%)</b>	1	2 hours	Examination covering all aspects of course
<b>Others (student participation...) (20%)</b>			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](mailto:esp@univ-catholille.fr)*