



蘇州大學
Soochow University

FIL 241 History and Theory of Film before 1960

Fall 2023

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is an engaging and comprehensive exploration of the early history and theoretical aspects of film and media. The course delves into various influential movements and cinematic styles, including German Expressionism, Film Noir, Italian Neorealism, the Western, Experimental, and Surrealist cinemas. Furthermore, the rise of related media forms, such as radio and television, will be examined in the context of their impact on early film and media development. Through in-depth analysis and critical discussions, students will gain a profound understanding of the evolution of film and media, providing them with a solid foundation for further exploration in the field.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. understand and articulate the intellectual and historically specific contexts of key ideas in film theory;
2. engage in close critical reading of key texts and challenge the ideas presented therein;
3. understand key concepts and contexts to specific films from different periods of film history;
4. understand and engage with the relations and tensions between distinct theoretical perspectives in film thinking.

PREREQUISITES

None



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

| ITEM | POINTS |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Discussions and Responses | 40 Points |
| Midterm Exam | 10 Points |
| Final Exam | 20 Points |
| Final Paper and Presentation | 30 Points |
| Total | 100 Points |

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

None.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

There will be specific readings based on class activity.

COURSE TOPICS

| MODULE | TASKS |
|----------|---|
| Module 1 | Topics: Topic 1: The Origins of the Moving Image and Early Film Topic 2: Emerging Fiction Genres and Dreyer's <i>Joan of Arc</i> Topic 3: Weimar Germany and Mise-en-Scène Topic 4: Screening: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Robert Wiene, 1920) Assessments: Discussion and Response #1 |



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| Module 2 | Topics: Topic 5: Cinematograph Topic 6: Introduction to Film Noir Topic 7: Soviet Union and Montage Topic 8: Screening: Woman with an Editing Bench (Karen Pearlman, 2016) Assessments: Discussion and Response #2 |
| Module 3 | Topics: Topic 9: The Avant-Garde and Early Experiments Outside the Mainstream Topic 10: The Coming of Sound in Europe Topic 11: Defining Asian Cinemas in the 1930s Topic 12: Screening: The Goddess (Yonggang Wu, 1934) Assessments: Discussion and Response #3 Midterm Exam |
| Module 4 | Topics: Topic 13: 1930s Hollywood and the Studio System Topic 14: World War II and Documentary Topic 15: Italian Cinema: Mussolini to Neorealism to Commedia all'italiana Topic 16: Screening: Bicycle Thieves (Vittorio de Sica, 1948) Assessments: Discussion and Response #4 |
| Module 5 | Topics: Topic 17: Modes and Methods of Film and Media Topic 18: Auteurs and Genres Topic 19: Film History and Historiography Topic 20: Television and New Media Assessments: Final Paper and Presentation Final Exam |

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.



If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed.



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The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.