



蘇州大學
Soochow University

FIL 242 History and Theory of Film: 1960 to Present

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an exploration of film and media history and theories from the 1960s to the present day, with a focus on key developments and movements in the contemporary cinema. Topics covered include: influential French New Wave, the transformative New Hollywood and American Cinema, Third cinema, Asian New Wave, and more. The impact of digital technology and new media on the film industry will also be discussed. Throughout the course, we will have the opportunity to screen significant films that exemplify the discussed topics.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Gain a specialized and comprehensive understanding of the field of film and media history;
2. Gain insights to the historical, cultural, social, and political contexts that influenced filmmaking during the selected period;
3. Apply various theoretical perspectives to a delimited material within film and media history;
4. Apply critical film analysis skills to interpret and evaluate significant films that exemplify the discussed topics, considering themes, style, and cultural significance;
5. Develop effective communication skills through discussions and written analyses of films.

PREREQUISITES

N/A



GRADING

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

| ITEM | POINTS |
|---------------|------------|
| Film Analyses | 40 Points |
| Midterm 1 | 15 Points |
| Midterm 2 | 15 Points |
| Final Paper | 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: Introduction and Overview: The Contemporary Cinema Since The 1960s Topic 2: France: New Wave and New Cinema Topic 3: Great Britain: Kitchen Sink Cinema Topic 4: Young Cinema in the Soviet Union Screening: "Breathless" (À bout de souffle) (1960) Directed by Jean-Luc Godard |



| | |
|----------|---|
| | <p>Assessments: Film Analysis#1</p> |
| Module 2 | <p>Topics: Topic 5: Hollywood's Fall and Rise: 1960–1980 Topic 6: The Studios in Crisis Topic 7: Modification of Classical Studio Styles and Experiments of New Genres Topic 8: The New Hollywood: Late 1960s To Late 1970s</p> <p>Screening: “The Godfather” (1972) Directed by Francis Ford Coppola</p> <p>Assessments: Film Analysis#2</p> |
| Module 3 | <p>Topics: Topic 9: Politically Critical Cinema of the 1960s and 1970s Topic 10: Third Cinema: Cinemas in Latin America, Africa, and Asia Topic 11: Documentary and Experimental Film since the Late 1960s Topic 12: New Cinemas and New Developments: Europe and The Ussr Since The 1970s</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#1</p> |
| Module 4 | <p>Topics: Topic 13: Continental and Subcontinental Cinemas Since 1970 Topic 14: Indian Cinema on the Global Stage Topic 15: Cinema Rising: Pacific Asia and Oceania Since 1970 Topic 16: China: The Great Success Story</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#2</p> |
| Module 5 | <p>Topics: Topic 17: American Cinema and the Entertainment Economy: The 1980s and After Topic 18: Digital Technology and The Cinema Digital Tools Topic 19: Effects on Film Form and Style Topic 20: New Media and the Future of Film</p> <p>Screening: “The Social Network” (2010) Directed by David Fincher</p> <p>Assessments: Final Paper</p> |

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



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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. 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.