



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## **FIL 480 Special Topics in Film and Modern Media**

**Fall 2023**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This advanced seminar explores special topics related to film and modern media, including their history, theory, and criticism. Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of key topics and trends in the world of cinema and contemporary media, fostering critical thinking and analysis. Topics covered in this course may vary from semester to semester, allowing for unlimited repeatability as new themes and subjects emerge. Sample topics may include: representation and identity in film and media, global perspectives on film and modern media, and approaches and methods of film and media criticism.

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

1. Analyze and evaluate key concepts, theories, and debates in film and modern media.
2. Gain a deep appreciation for the cultural, social, and artistic significance of film and media.
3. Examine the ways in which film and media represent gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity.
4. Develop effective written and oral communication skills for analyzing and discussing media topics.
5. Apply theoretical frameworks to interpret and critique various media forms.

### **PREREQUISITES**

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N/A

### **GRADING**

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

ITEM	POINTS
Critical Essays	45 Points
Group Project/ Presentation	25 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:**

There is no required textbook for this course.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

Specific readings will be assigned based on class activities.

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Representation and Identity in Film and Media Topic 2: Gender and Sexuality in Cinema Topic 3: Feminist Film Theory and Representation Topic 4: Contemporary Debates on Gender and Sexual Diversity <b>Assessments:</b> Critical Essay#1
Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Race and Ethnicity in Media Topic 6: African American Cinema and the Blaxploitation Era Topic 7: Portrayals of Asian, Latino, and Indigenous Communities Topic 8: Contemporary Discussions on Whitewashing and Cultural Appropriation



	<b>Assessments:</b> Critical Essay #2
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Film Aesthetics and Visual Storytelling Topic 10: Cinematic Techniques and Visual Language Topic 11: Production Design and Art Direction Topic 12: Case Studies and Discussions <b>Assessments:</b> Critical Essay#3
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Global Perspectives on Film and Modern Media Topic 14: International Cinema Movements Topic 15: Cultural Influences on Filmmaking Styles Topic 16: Cross-cultural Collaborations and Co-productions <b>Assessments:</b> Group Project/Presentation
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Film and Media Criticism: Approaches and Methods Topic 18: Formalism, Auteurism, and Structuralism Topic 19: Ideological and Feminist Film Criticism Topic 20: Audience Reception and Reception Theory <b>Assessments:</b> Final Paper

## ATTENDANCE

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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 (e.g., 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. 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:



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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.