



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND LANGUAGES

1. Location of the Course			
FACULTY	Arts and Social Sciences		
SCHOOL	Humanities and Languages		
COURSE CODE	ARTS 2482		
COURSE NAME	French cinema & society		
SEMESTER	2	YEAR	2013

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3. Staff Contact Details			
Name	Valerie Combe-Germes	Office	MB 271
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Contact Time and Availability	Mondays 11 – 12, Thursdays 1 – 2 or by appointment.		

4. Course Details	
Credit Points	6 uoc
Summary of the Course	The course has been designed to achieve an accurate general understanding of the evolution of 20 th -century to present French society through the lens of French cinema. Each film will be analyzed in relation to such issues as time period, genre, socio-political context, audiovisual technique, gender, etc. Knowledge of French at Introductory level as a minimum is required.
Aims of the Course	1. To gain some insight in the history of French Cinema;
	2. to introduce students to French film theory;
	3. to develop skills in film analysis;
	4. to examine and get an understanding of French society and culture.
Student Learning Outcomes	1. Students should be able to understand and analyze French filmic culture;

	2.	they should also be able to compare the above components with their counterparts in their own culture, and develop a better understanding of their own cultural values;
	3.	they should be able to discuss cultural and societal French phenomena and practices;
	4.	they will thus increase their ability to express themselves in spoken and written modes in a culturally appropriate manner.
Graduate Attributes	1.	An in-depth engagement with disciplinary (i.e. filmic) knowledge;
	2.	the capacity for analytical and critical thinking and for creative problem-solving in cinema studies;
	3.	an appreciation of, and respect for, cultural diversity;
	4.	the skills involved in collecting, documenting, organizing, and systematically analyzing information.

5. Course Timetable			
Class Type/Number	Day	Time	Location
Lecture / #5338	Tuesday	9 to 11	OMB 151
Tutorial 1 / #5340	Thursday	9 to 10	Quad. GO 25
Tutorial 2 / #5339	Thursday	11 to 12	Quad. GO 25
* <i>Course timetables are subject to change without notice. Students are advised to check regularly for updates on the Online Timetable at www.timetable.unsw.edu.au.</i>			
* <i>Note: films will be screened outside the teaching block.</i> Two screenings will take place every Tuesday from 11 to 1 in OMB 150 and every Wednesday from 10 to 12 in Mat. 102.			

6. Rationale for the Inclusion of Content and Teaching Approach
<p>The course is based on the principle that cinematic art is often closely linked to and reflective of a specific societal and cultural context as well as national concerns. Films will be screened (outside of teaching time blocks) in the original language with subtitles, due to the varying level of competencies in the French language among the student population. The viewing and close analysis of clips will, however, generally improve the listening comprehension competence of all students enrolled in the class. The pedagogical approach features collaborative peer interaction and inclusive teaching strategies, all supported by a variety of authentic documents, together with on-line materials and activities on the online platform. In addition, the instructor will endeavor to draw on the students' personal experiences in a climate of mutual respect between all participants, with the aim of making the learning experience more relevant and engaging.</p>

This course is a level 2 contextual elective; as such, students should be in at least their second year of university (30 uoc at level 1) and have completed 2 semesters of French language study (ARTS 1480 & ARTS 1481 or equivalent, as a minimum). Please note, although the course is taught in English this language requirement is compulsory.

7. Teaching Strategies
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the history and scope of French cinema all the way to the present time through the analysis of key works of

the French film canon. Particular attention will be paid to successive period styles (“le réalisme poétique,” “la qualité française,” “la nouvelle vague,” “le film de banlieue,” etc.) as well as various genres (war, drama, comedy, crime, etc.). A variety of critical lenses will be used (psychoanalysis, socio-historical and cultural context, politics, aesthetics, gender studies) in an effort to better understand the specificities and complexities of these films.

By the end of the course, you will be conversant with the works of some of the most prominent French directors and with the conditions of production and reception that characterize the era during which those films were made. Additionally, you will show an awareness of the most important concepts that inform the field of cinema studies.

This course will help you enhance your analytical skills through the in-depth study of key scenes. You will learn to decipher the formal techniques specific to the film medium and be able to understand their pertinence in different contexts.

Class will meet twice a week. Viewing the assigned films before coming to class on Tuesday is imperative. A copy of each film is on reserve at the library. Taking (re)active notes while watching the films is strongly recommended.

Lectures will consist in Powerpoint presentations providing background information on the director, highlighting the historical and socio-cultural context, and focusing on the main themes and issues presented in the film. There will be time for questions, comments and discussion as well. Tutorials will be devoted to a close analysis of the film at hand through the reconstruction of the narrative and key sequences as well as the use of various theoretical lenses and critical texts. The know-how developed through these microanalyses will be re-invested in the final essay.

8. Assessment

Assessment Task	Length	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Due Date
Preparatory Research	N/A	5%	1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3, 4	between weeks 3 & 11
Oral presentation	20 mins + 10 mins questions	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4	between weeks 3 & 11
Quizz 1	30 mins	15%	1, 3	1	Week 6
Quizz 2	30 mins	15%	1, 3	1	Week 13
Final essay	2,500 – 3,000 words	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4	8 th November 2013

- In addition to fulfilling the above assessment requirements, students are expected to attend at least 80% of their lectures and tutorials in order to pass the course.
- All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.
- Grades

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards, a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/GuideToUNSWGrades.html> See under "13 Other Information" for more information on Submission of Assessment Tasks and Late Assignments.

9. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/>. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in a honours thesis) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here <http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>

10. Course Schedule

Topic	Date	Lecture Content	Tutorial/Lab Content	Readings Required
Introduction to film theory and history	Weeks 1 & 2	French cinematographic styles, genres and techniques.		All readings will be posted online.
Specific French Films	Weeks 3 to 11	Film analysis / study of French society.		
Synthesis and conclusion	Weeks 12 & 13	Discussion on contemporary French cinema.		

Please note that the course schedule is subject to change according to needs; a separate document detailing the contents of lectures and practical class topics, as well as set homework and preparation is available on the course website.

11. Expected Resources for Students

Readings

Recommended: Alan Williams, *Republic of Images: A History of French Filmmaking*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press 1992. Available at the Main Library (S 791.430944/95).

Additional readings will be posted online.

Websites

<http://www.filmsite.org/filmterms1.html> Glossary of cinematic vocabulary

12. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

13. Other Information**Submission of Assessment Tasks**

Assignments which are submitted to the School Assignment Box must have a properly completed School Assessment Coversheet, with the declaration signed and dated by hand. It can be downloaded from <https://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>. It is individual students' responsibility to make a backup copy of the assignment prior to submission and retain it.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00pm on the due date. Assignments received after this time will be marked as having been received late.

Late Submission of Assignments

Late assignments will attract a penalty. Of the total mark, 3% will be deducted each day for the first week, with Saturday and Sunday counting as two days, and 10% each week thereafter.

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

OHS

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see <http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/>

Attendance

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from classes should be discussed with the teacher and where applicable accompanied by a medical certificate. If students attend less than 80% of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment.

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the student misconduct policy.

Class Clash

- a. The student must provide the Course Convenor with copies of lecture notes from those lectures missed on a regular basis as agreed by the Course Convenor and the student.
- b. If a student does indeed attend a lecture for which they had secured a permitted

clash they will still submit lecture notes as evidence of attendance.

- c. **Failure to meet these requirements is regarded as unsatisfactory performance in the course and a failure to meet the Faculty's course attendance requirement. Accordingly, Course Convenors will fail students who do not meet this performance/attendance requirement.**
- d. Students must attend the clashed lecture on a specific date if that lecture contains an assessment task for the course such as a quiz or test. Inability to meet this requirement would be grounds for a Course Convenor refusing the application. If the student misses the said lecture there is no obligation on the Course Convenor to schedule a make-up quiz or test and the student can receive zero for the assessment task. It should be noted that in many courses a failure to complete an assessment task can be grounds for course failure.

Special Consideration

In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible. Forms are available from Student Central on the ground floor of the Chancellery (opposite the Library) or online at the link below.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner.

Further

information is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>

Issues to be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.