



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

HISTORY
2008 FULL YEAR

HIST 423: A Topic in Historiography and Historical Method 2: Film and History CRN 7707

COURSE INFORMATION

Lecturer : Dr Giacomo Lichtner

Room OK 412

Phone: 463 6756

Office Hours: Tuesday 10.00-12.00

Email: giacomo.lichtner@victoria.ac.nz

Tutorials: **One fortnightly two-hour** tutorial.
Mondays 2.10 – 4.00pm, OK 406

Film showings: **One Weekly Film Screening.**
Mondays 4.10 – 6.00pm OK 406, or in the Library AV Suite (9th floor) by private arrangement.

Information: Additional information or information on changes during the course will be posted on the History notice board or announced in tutorials.

AIMS AND CONTENT:

Course Aims and Objectives

This course is designed to explore the different ways in which history and film interact, how filmmakers use history in their trade and, vice versa, and how the study of history can profit from using the moving image as source. The course will cover the representation of history in film, but also cinema as evidence of social and political attitudes to history, and the reception of films in the study of how these attitudes change with time. Similarly, the material used will include works from several countries, covering most genres, and fiction as well as documentary. The aim of this course is to increase the students' historical understanding of post-war societies' relationship with their past, while discussing methodologies for the study of representation and the reception of films. Moreover the course hopes to stimulate the students' awareness of the potential and dangers of using film in historical research, as well as their critical thinking with regards to both film and history.

It is expected that by the end of the course the students will be able to understand satisfactorily:

- how film can be used to convey a particular version of history or make a political statement
- how films shape our understanding of history while at the same time being shaped themselves by the society of which they are a product
- how to analyse critically a film in relation to its historical content
- key concepts in film criticism
- key issues in the post-war representation of the Holocaust

Course Content

The context of the course will be the Holocaust, however the cinematographic texts will be employed not as sources for knowledge about the Shoah, but in the study of how this has been interpreted in different times and places, as well as by different film genres. The historical understanding that it produces is thus of a different kind. The analysis of the films' reception and of their choices in terms of representation will highlight issues of politics, ideology, myth-building and the shifting taboos of modern societies. Adopting a thematic approach, in the first semester the course will discuss issues concerning fiction films and the Holocaust, comparing alternative solutions to representational problems. In the second semester, we will turn to documentary filmmaking and address some of the issues surrounding the medium and its relation with historical research, such as varying rigorous use of footage.

ASSESSMENT AND COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The assessment procedure aims to establish that the students have gained a good understanding of the relationship between film and history, but also that they are able to apply this to the specific context of this course: the representation of the Holocaust. In accordance with the emphasis the Honours year puts on individual research projects, the students will be asked to identify, plan and write **one** research essay. On top of these, the students will be required to sit a test in the final week of the year, designed to assess their ability critically to evaluate the challenges of film and history. Moreover, a small percentage of the final mark will be determined by an

oral presentation during the tutorials, in which each student will be asked to give a short talk about the relevant films and lead the ensuing discussion. A timetable for the students' presentations will be set during the first tutorial.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment in this course will be based on the following:

- (a) One **essay proposal**, worth **10%** of the final grade.
Deadline: Monday 19 May, 5pm.
- (b) One **Research Essay**: of 5000 words, worth **50%** of the final grade.
Deadline: Friday 12 September, 5pm.
- (c) One **oral presentation**: worth **15%** of the final grade.
Deadlines vary.
- (d) One **in-class test**: worth **25%** of the final grade.
The test will take place in the last tutorial slot, **on 6 October 2008.**

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To pass the course each student must:

1. Complete the assignments specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);

Faculty guidelines permit you to miss up to 3 tutorials without penalty. Please note: Extra absences will result in penalty, except in cases of serious illness (supported by a medical certificate), or serious personal crisis. **THERE IS NO PROVISION IN THIS COURSE FOR MAKE-UPS TO COMPENSATE FOR ADDITIONAL ABSENCES EXCEPT UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.** You should allow for the possibility of unforeseen illness when using up your quota of permissible absences.

PLEASE NOTE that **Friday 31 October 2008** is the FINAL DATE on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 31 October must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

NB: A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

WORKLOAD:

In accordance with the FHSS guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote at least 15 hours per week to HIST423.

PENALTIES:

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays - a deduction of 5% for the first day, plus a further 2% per day, up to a maximum of eight days, from marks awarded to such a late essay. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

AEGROTATS:

Please note that under the Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of full year courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Monday 15 September 2008**.

The following rules apply:

- where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed, in the view of the course supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered. Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.
- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Assessment Statute (Section 4.5) for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM:

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were ones own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct. All cases will be

recorded on a central database and severe penalties may be imposed. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

TUTORIAL PROGRAMME

Discussion of Readings: The format of the discussion will be flexible. However, each week at least one student will be expected to lead the tutorial. All students will be required to familiarise themselves with the prescribed readings and films, and discussion will focus on the main arguments and theoretical issues raised in those.

1st Semester: Fiction

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	History and Film: methodological and theoretical implications.
Week 3	Initial responses on either side of the Iron Curtain: <i>The last stop</i> and <i>The diary of Anne Frank</i>
Week 5	Realist fiction and historical accuracy: <i>L'Enclos</i> and <i>Kapo</i>

Mid-semester break (14 April to 27 April)

Week 7	The grey zone: <i>The nightporter</i> and <i>The shop on main street</i>
Week 9	Realist fiction and historical accuracy II: Hollywood endings: <i>The Pianist</i> and <i>Schindler's List</i>
Week 11	Seeking a new language: comedy and the Holocaust: <i>Life is Beautiful</i> and <i>Train de vie</i>
Week 12	Seeking new stories: <i>Bent</i> and <i>Everything is illuminated</i>

Mid-year break (2 June to 6 July)

2nd Semester: Documentary

Week 1	Film, Politics and History <i>Night and fog</i>
Week 3	Challenging the Orthodoxy <i>The sorrow and the pity</i>
Week 5	Memory and Justice <i>The specialist</i> and <i>Mr. Death</i>

Mid-semester break (18 August to 31 August)

Week 7	The Purist Approach <i>Shoah</i>
Week 9	Docu-dramas <i>The Wannsee Conference</i> and <i>Conspiracy</i>
Week 11	Revision class
Week 12	In-class test