

FILM 406 Studies in Film Authorship

2010: Bresson & Godard

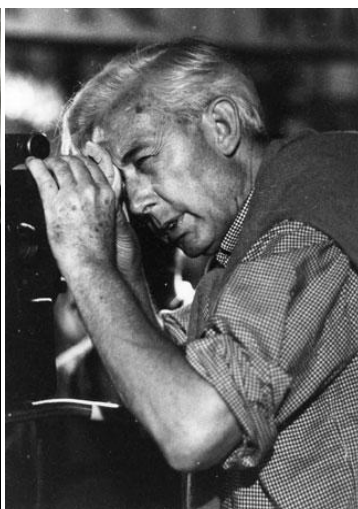
Trimester 2 2010

Monday 12 July to Saturday 13 November 2010

30 Points



Jean-Luc Godard



Robert Bresson

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: Monday 12 July 2010 to Friday 15 October 2010

Mid-trimester break: Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Russell Campbell	russell.campbell@vuw.ac.nz	463 6824	83FT 311	Mon 1-2, Wed 9-10

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Wed, Fri 10am-1pm. Room 108, 85 Fairlie Tce.

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will comprise a mixture of staff and student seminars, along with screenings. Students will be expected to be well prepared for classes and to take an active part in discussion.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard and on the course noticeboard in 85 Fairlie Tce.

COURSE CONTENT

FILM 406 constitutes an advanced study of the work of a particular filmmaker or filmmakers, examining the critical debate within film studies around attribution of authorship to a single individual. The course may explore aesthetic, economic and cultural issues related to authorship in the cinema. In 2010 the course will focus on two major figures of French (and world) cinema, Robert Bresson and Jean-Luc Godard. Bresson is noted for his rigorous, austere films using nonprofessional actors, while Godard, a prominent New Wave director, has conducted a relentless interrogation of the language of cinema itself. Precise content of the second half of the course will be determined by student choice of seminar topics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aims of FILM 406 are to examine the concept of authorship in the context of a collective and predominantly commercial art form, and to study the work of one or more film auteurs in depth. An understanding of the thematic and stylistic characteristics of Bresson and Godard will be built up through screenings, seminars and readings, while the notion of film authorship will be subjected to constant interrogation in the light of analyses of particular films. On completion of the course students should be able to demonstrate extensive knowledge of the two filmmakers studied and an enhanced understanding of the issues involved in attributing authorship in the cinema. The course will also develop their ability to do independent research, textual analysis, critical thinking, essay writing and oral presentations. Marking criteria will be stipulated for each assignment, and will include adequacy of research, coherence of argument, and clarity of presentation.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

For a 30-point course you are expected to devote a total of around 300 hours to course work. For FILM 406 this commitment will be spread over the 12 weeks of teaching and the 2 week mid-trimester break. For a typical teaching week you should expect to spend about 22 hours on the course (6 hours in classes, 6 hours reading and viewing films, and 10 hours on assignments), and in the break 18 hours per week.

READINGS

Essential texts:

There are no required text books. There will be set readings for each week of the first half of the course which will be available for purchase as course notes (cost \$26.60). Readings for the second half of the course will be placed on Electronic Reserve in the library.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

All assessment will be internal. There is no final examination. Details of each assignment will be given in class. The assignments are:

- research notes (1000 words) (10%) and class presentation (10-15 minutes) (10%) on an aspect of French cultural, social or political history, due date 27 July, 2 pm (notes) and tba (between 28 July and 20 August) (presentation).
- an essay (3000-3500 words) (30%) on an aspect of the work of Robert Bresson or Jean-Luc Godard, due date 7 September, 2pm.
- a seminar (50-60 minutes) (15%), due date to be agreed (between 15 and 24 September), based on the essay.
- a seminar (50-60 minutes) (35%), due date to be agreed (between 29 September and 15 October), on an aspect of the work of Robert Bresson or Jean-Luc Godard, accompanied by written notes (500 words).

It is expected that, unless you make a compelling case to the contrary, one of your seminars will be on Bresson and the other on Godard.

Film Honours students should note that assessment for particular courses is provisional pending consideration of the student's coursework as a whole and external moderation.

The assignments are designed to help fulfil the aims of the course by stimulating students to conduct independent research into the filmmakers being studied and French culture more generally, and to present their findings with lucid and compelling arguments both in written form and in seminars with audiovisual illustration.

Handing in Assignments:

Assignments should be placed in the drop slot at the Film, Theatre and Media Studies administration reception area in 83 Fairlie Terrace. You must keep a copy of your assignment before submitting it.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Work that is submitted late without an extension is subject to penalties:

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

If you find you are unable to make your presentation or give your seminar on the agreed date please contact the course coordinator urgently.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to pass this course you must:

- Complete all the assignments, on or before the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend at least 18 of the 24 seminar sessions.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You 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 or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

AWARD

The Prize for Film Studies, arising from a fund established by the Wai-te-Ata Press, will be awarded to the best student of film history, criticism or production in FILM courses.

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week	Wednesday 10-1	Friday 10-1	Assignments	Readings
1	14 Jul Auteurism, <i>Cahiers</i> , French film culture	16 Jul Bresson 1: Intro Godard 1: Intro	Research notes due 27 Jul	Bresson Sontag, 'Spiritual...' Sontag, 'Godard'
2	21 Jul Les Anges du péché Bresson 2: Criminality & rebellion	23 Jul À bout de souffle Godard 2: Narrative & editing		Barthes <i>Cahiers</i> , i/v Godard
3	28 Jul Diary of a Country Priest Bresson 3: Religion	30 Jul Vivre sa vie Godard 3: Mise-en- scene	Essay due 7 Sep	Bonnaud Silverman & Farocki
4	4 Aug Pickpocket Bresson 4: Performance	6 Aug Contempt Godard 4: Cinema		Millar Kehr
5	11 Aug Au hasard Balthazar Bresson 5: Corruption	13 Aug Alphaville Godard 5: Genre		<i>Cahiers</i> , i/v Bresson Benedikt
6	18 Aug Mouchette Bresson 6: Soundtrack	20 Aug Tout va bien Godard 6: Politics		Hanlon MacCabe

----- **Mid-Trimester Break: Mon 23 Aug - Sun 5 Sep** -----

*Seminar topics and screenings in the second half of the course will be determined by student choice.
An updated timetable will be distributed when it is available.*

Week	Wednesday 10-1	Friday 10-1	Assignments	Readings
7	8 Sep	10 Sep Godard/1968 <i>Gary Elshaw</i>	Seminar 1 due 15-24 Sep	tba
8	15 Sep	17 Sep		tba
9	22 Sep	24 Sep	Seminar 2 due 29 Sep- 15 Oct	tba
10	29 Sep	1 Oct		tba
11	6 Oct	8 Oct		tba
12	13 Oct	15 Oct		tba