

## FILM 489 Research Project

**Trimester 1 + 2 2013**

4 March to 17 November 2013

**30 Points**

### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	4 March to 18 October 2013
Easter break:	28 March to 3 April 2013
Mid-trimester break 1/3:	22 to 28 April 2013
Mid-year break:	4 to 14 July 2013
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	26 August to 8 September 2013

### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Coordinator: Dr Alfio Leotta	Email: Alfio.Leotta @vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 463 6520	Room: 83 Fairlie Terrace room 312
Office Hours: tba	Supervisors: tba

### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

There are no classes for this course but students must: attend regular meetings with their supervisor; be present at the following workshops; and attend the Film and Media Studies Research Seminars (listed on page 9).

#### Workshops

Date	Time	Room Number	Workshop Topic
Wed 6 March	4-5pm	81FT103	Introduction to FILM 489
Wed 13 March	4-5pm	81FT103	Research and Methods

Wed 10 April	12-1pm	KK216	Library and Database
Wed 17 April	12-1pm	KK216	Endnote and Zotero
Wed 8 May	4-5pm	81FT103	Writing and Editing
Week 1, Trimester 2		TBA	Troubleshooting
Week 6, Trimester 2		TBA	Further Postgraduate Study (optional)
Week 7, Trimester 2		TBA	Preparing Final Drafts

### TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

Students will be assigned a supervisor for their research project and will work with this supervisor to program a suitable course of study. There will also be a number of workshops and seminars that will provide students with advanced research skills and will give them the opportunity to discuss their project.

### COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

### COURSE PRESCRIPTION

This course gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual research project usually in the form of an extended essay, up to 10,000 words, with regular guidance and support from a supervisor. Practical and creative work may be included as part of a research project. A research project is a mandatory part of an Honours degree in Film. Students enrolled in FILM 489 will be contacted by the coordinator prior to the start of trimester one regarding their research topic and supervision. Students wishing to include practical work will also need to discuss the resource implications before they enrol.

### COURSE CONTENT

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop a detailed academic project which addresses their own research question. The research that they undertake should be presented as extended essay and/ or creative/practical presentation. The project should be approximately 10,000 words in length. Students will meet with their supervisor on a regular basis to discuss the focus of their research question, the methodology or approach they take to their research, and the progress of their project through to final submission. Students should conduct extensive research into their chosen topic. They should also draw on academic sources, such as scholarly books, book chapters, and articles from refereed journals. This will

enable them to develop an informed critical response to the topic based on their research, and use these results as the basis of a coherent, well-supported argument.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students who successfully complete this course will acquire advanced research and argumentation skills. They will be able to suitably identify relevant research questions and will be able to answer these questions within appropriate methodological frameworks. Students will develop their ability to present their findings in both verbal and written form. Their course of study will enhance their critical skills and will improve their proficiency at film analysis.

### **EXPECTED WORKLOAD**

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the year.

### **READINGS**

Students will determine appropriate readings for their research project through their own research and through discussion with their supervisor.

### **ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The assessment for this course will be internal as well as moderated by an external examiner. Further information about assessment will be distributed during the course and placed on Blackboard.

The largest component of FILM 489 is the individual research project that is developed and completed as a 10,000 word research essay in consultation with the supervisor. This is a theoretically informed piece of writing that should demonstrate that students are able to conceive and implement a project, to conceptualise and clarify a research question, and to cogently present the results of the inquiry. In order to accomplish the project students will be expected to meet a number of milestones and complete a compulsory presentation.

#### **Milestones**

1. Research proposal, with outline timetable, research question and methodology (Due date to be decided with supervisor)
2. First chapter/Literature review (Due date to be decided with supervisor)
3. Full first draft (Due date to be decided with supervisor)

## **Presentation**

**Due Date: Week 9/10 (TBC)**

**Length: 10 minutes**

**Location: TBA**

### Description:

In week 10 of Trimester 1 all FILM 489 students will give an informal, ten-minute presentation on their project to their peers. The presentations are an opportunity for students to share preliminary findings with others and receive feedback on their work. Further details will be made available through Blackboard.

## **Research Essay**

**Due Date: Friday, 11 October, 3pm**

**Length: 10,000 words (100%)**

### Description:

In week 11 of Trimester 2, students must submit their FILM 489 essay. Guidelines will be provided about correct formatting and presentation of this work.

### Assessment Criteria

- Fulfil the set task in clear, direct, relevant, complete and timely manner.
- Identify a clearly defined research question that forms the focus of your project.
- Sustain a coherent and logical argument that incorporates a critical reading of the independent research you have undertaken.
- Demonstrate a proficiency at textual analysis at an advanced level (where appropriate).
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the theoretical concepts and methodologies that inform your research paper.
- Demonstrate a high standard of written expression.
- Include accurate and complete references for all relevant sources using footnotes, a bibliography, and filmography.

### The marking process

The marking process for a 489 research essay is: a Film staff member is appointed to mark the essay in consultation with the supervisor and the FILM 489 coordinator. S/he marks the essay and writes a report. The student's supervisor then writes a short response to the report and the grade given. Both reports may be forwarded to the external Honours moderator and a final grade is determined at the Honours Examiners' Meeting.

### Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will enhance research and analytical skills, and the ability to sustain a persuasive argument. It will further develop written communication skills, as well as the capacity to present critical analysis of film and related areas.

**Please note:** Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Note also that Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

### **SUBMISSION OF WORK**

The Research Essay is submitted in two formats:

- Two hardcopies in the drop slot outside the Administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet to your essay, found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to [film@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:film@vuw.ac.nz)

### **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. Tutors cannot grant extensions. 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.

### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Complete the milestones and presentation as agreed with your supervisor
- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend a minimum of 5 of the 8 mandatory workshops

### **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>

## TURNITIN

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

## COURSE PROGRAMME 2013

Week 1	4 March	Workshop 1 : Introduction to FILM 489
Week 2	11 March	Workshop 2: Research and Methods
Week 3	18 March	
Week 4 MTW	25 March	
<b>Easter Break:</b>	Thursday 28 March to Wednesday 3 April 2013	
Week 4 T F	4 April	
Week 5	8 April	Workshop 3: Library and Database
Week 6	15 April	Workshop 4: Endnote and Zotero
<b>Mid-Trimester Break:</b>	Monday 22 to Sunday 28 April 2013	
Week 7	29 April	
Week 8	6 May	Workshop 5: Writing and Editing
Week 9	13 May	<b>Presentations due (TBC)</b>
Week 10	20 May	<b>Presentations due (TBC)</b>
Week 11	27 May	
Week 12	3 June	
<b>Mid-Year Break:</b>	Monday 4 July to Sunday 14 July 2013	
Week 13	15 July	Workshop 6: Troubleshooting
Week 14	22 July	
Week 15	29 July	
Week 16	5 August	



Week 17	12 August	
Week 18	19 August	Workshop 7: Continuing on to Further Postgraduate Study
<b>Mid-Trimester Break:</b>	Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013	
Week 19	9 Sept	Workshop 8: Preparing Final Drafts
Week20	16 Sept	
Week 21	23 Sept	
Week 22	30 Sept	
Week 23	7 Oct	<b>Research Essay Due, Fri 11 October, 3pm</b>
Week 24	14 Oct	

**Film and Media Studies Research Seminars**

**Week 1:** Thursday 7 March, 12-1pm

Room 103, 81 Fairlie Terrace

Richard J. Meyer

*Sergei Eisenstein's Odessa Steps Montage*

**Week 3:** Thursday 21 March, 12-1pm

Room 103, 81 Fairlie Terrace

Michael Daubs, Media Studies Programme

*Community, Labour and Exploitation in CNN's iReport*

**Week 6:** Thursday 11 April, 12-1pm

Room 103, 81 Fairlie Terrace

Sarah Baker, School of Design

*Glamorous Objects, Feminism and the Politics of Time*

**Week 8:** Thursday 2 May, 12-1pm

Room 103, 81 Fairlie Terrace

Kirsten Thompson, Film Programme

TBA

**Week 10:** Thursday 16 May, 12-1pm

Room 103, 81 Fairlie Terrace

Jo Smith, Media Studies Programme, and Sue Abel, Department of Film, Television and Media Studies,  
University of Auckland

*Onscreen Indigeneity: working notes on the cultural politics of Māori TV*

**Week 11:** Thursday 23 May, 12-1pm

Room 103, 81 Fairlie Terrace

Anita Brady, Media Studies Programme

TBA