

FILM 234 – National Cinema: Classical Hollywood Cinema

Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

20 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	15 July to 18 October 2013
Mid-trimester break:	26 August to 8 September 2013
Last piece of assessment due:	29 October 2013

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Thursday 1100-1350	Student Union, MT228	(Screening)
Friday 1000-1150	Hugh MacKenzie Building, LT002	(Lecture)

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the FILM 234 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorials” and then follow the instructions under the “SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board outside the administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Lecturer and Course Coordinator:

Lauren Anderson Lauren.Anderson@vuw.ac.nz 463 6824 311 FT83 Office Hours: TBA

Tutor:

Duncan Anderson Duncan.Anderson@vuw.ac.nz Office Hours: TBA

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information and announcements 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. If you do not set up a forwarding address, you may miss important information and announcements posted on Blackboard.

PRESCRIPTION

A study of the cinema of a selected country or countries from cultural, historical, and economic perspectives. In 2013, the course will focus on Classical Hollywood Cinema from the 1920s to the 1960s. It will explore topics such as the studio system, the coming of sound, classical Hollywood style, censorship, genre, and stardom.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Explain economic, aesthetic and technological developments from the Classical Hollywood era.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with and understanding of key critical concepts used to analyse Classical Hollywood Cinema, and apply these concepts to relevant films where appropriate.
3. Explain the relationship between Classical Hollywood films and selected economic, aesthetic, technical, social, cultural, or political developments.
4. Demonstrate scholarly research and writing skills.

TEACHING FORMAT

This course will involve one screening, one lecture and one tutorial per week (in that order). Your lecturer and tutors will put maximum effort into teaching at a high level. In return, you are asked to actively engage in the course. That involves attending all lectures and tutorials, reading the required texts on a weekly basis, actively searching for more information about topics which interest you, preparing questions for tutorials, engaging in discussions in tutorials, and performing at your best in assignments.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit all written assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend and participate in at least eight (8) tutorials

WORKLOAD

This is a 20 point course, so the University expects you to devote 200 hours to it: across 15 weeks (12 teaching weeks + 2 weeks mid-term break + 1 study week) that equates to an average of 13-14 hours per week. In addition to 6 hours per week of classes and screenings, you should therefore spend an average of 7-8 hours per week reading and reviewing course material, preparing for tutorials, and working on assignments.

ASSESSMENT

Assignment 1: Annotated Bibliography (30%)

Length: 1600-2000 words (total)

Due dates: varied (will be confirmed in tutorials, Week 2)

Description:

You will have to research and prepare an annotated bibliography comprising four sources in total (two in Weeks 3-6; two in Weeks 8-12).

Further information about and instructions for this assessment will be distributed in the lectures and tutorials in Weeks 1 and 2.

Marking Criteria:

- Evidence of scholarly research and engagement with chosen items.
- Summary of items
- Explanation of the usefulness and relevance of items
- Structure and expression.
- Spelling, grammar, referencing.

Relation to learning objectives:

This assignment relates to learning objectives 2 and 4

Assignment Two: Take Home Test (30%)

Length: 2000 words (total)

Due Date: Monday 9 September, 2pm

Description:

This take home test will cover material related to Weeks 1-6 of the course.

The test and instructions will be provided in Week 6.

Marking Criteria:

- Coverage of important issues

- Depth of understanding
- Use and evidence of research
- Use and analysis of relevant films
- Logical coherence of arguments
- Structure and expression
- Spelling, grammar and referencing
- Creativity and originality

Learning objectives:

This assessments relates to learning objectives 1, 2, and 4.

Assignment Three: Essay (40%)

Length: 2500 words

Due: Tuesday 29 October, 2pm

Description:

This assessment will cover the topics and issues discussed in Weeks 7-12 of the course, such as stardom, authorship, ideology, gender representation, technological change, and 'new Hollywood'.

The essay questions and instructions will be provided in Week 9.

Marking Criteria:

- Coverage of important issues
- Depth of understanding
- Use and evidence of research
- Use and analysis of relevant films
- Logical coherence of arguments
- Structure and expression
- Spelling, grammar and referencing
- Creativity and originality

Learning objectives:

This assessments relates to learning objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

All essays must be submitted in hard-copy to the dropbox at 83 Fairlie Terrace. Hard-copy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section of Blackboard.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

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.

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. 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.

SET TEXTS

Essential text: FILM 234 Student Notes.

Available from vicbooks, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade.

You can order student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Classical Hollywood Cinema: Film Style & Mode of Production to 1960 (1985), by David Bordwell, Janet Staiger and Kristin Thompson.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

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.

You may like to write the Class Rep’s name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and email address for this course:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	Introduction
Week 2	The Studio System
Week 3	Silent Comedy
Week 4	Sound (Musicals)
Week 5	Censorship (Gangster Films)
Week 6	Two-tier filmmaking
Mid Trimester Break:	<i>Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013</i>
Week 7	Stardom and Performance
Week 8	Authorship
Week 9	Ideology & Politics (WWII and post-war)
Week 10	Ideology & Politics (Gender)
Week 11	Social and Industrial change (1950s)
Week 12	Decline; New Hollywood