

FILM 407 Studies in Film Genre

Trimester 2 2013

15 July to 17 November 2013

30 Points



Photo taken by Thierry Jutel

TRIMESTER DATES

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Teaching dates: | 15 July to 18 October 2013 |
| Mid-trimester break: | 26 August to 8 September 2013 |
| Study week: | 21 to 25 October 2013 |
| Last piece of assessment due: | 30 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

Screenings

Monday 11.00am-12.50pm 85 Fairlie Terrace, room 108

Seminars

Wednesday 11.00am-12.50pm 85 Fairlie Terrace, room 108

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Thierry Jutel Thierry.Jutel@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 463 9737

Room: 85 Fairlie Terrace, room 107

Office hours: Monday 1.00 – 2.00pm or by appointment

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Blackboard notices and student emails will be used to convey any information relating to this course. 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.

PRESCRIPTION

An advanced study of film genre or genres. In 2013, the course will focus on cinematic badlands. Badlands are landscapes associated with foreboding or desolate spaces which bear the mark of real or imaginary historical disasters. This course will draw on diverse examples from the Western (*The Searchers*), the road movie (*Badlands*), and the war film (*Badland*). This will encourage students to examine the cinematic representations of these haunted spaces and think critically about film genres.

COURSE CONTENT

Badlands work as locations and backdrops for stories about lost souls and haunted lands whose respective histories converge. Recurring images include the scorched desert and the empty road; the chase and the hideout; the stylised treatment of death and suicide sometimes shown as sacrifice; and moments of contemplation, reflection and hallucination. The visual tropes have been extended to other spaces such as post-industrial, urban and environmental wastelands. We will discuss the ways in which badlands function as terminal, liminal, and/or transitional spaces in the context of narratives of settler colonization.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Relate the use of landscape in a variety of films and contexts to broader socio-historical issues;
2. Consider aesthetic, stylistic, narrative, and generic conventions and usage in relation to the role of landscape in cinema;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the visual and narrative tropes associated with cinematic badlands;
4. Devise projects which creatively engage with the visual and narrative tropes associated with cinematic badlands;
5. Demonstrate an ability to analyse the relation between the scholarship in the field of cinema studies, specifically relating to landscape, critical theory, and film examples.
6. Develop research questions and research projects;
7. Present research outcomes in written and oral forms.

TEACHING FORMAT

The course will be organised around weekly screenings and weekly seminars where student participation will be essential.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Submit the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as stated for late submission of work)

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

| Assessment items and workload per item | | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|--|-----|------------------|----------|
| 1 | Creative/critical analysis of a badland: project and presentation (20 minutes) | 20% | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 | 21 Aug |
| 2 | Critical essay 2000-2500 words | 25% | 1, 2,3, 5, 7 | 19 Sept |
| 3 | Research proposal 750-1000 words | 10% | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 | 10 Oct |
| 4 | Research essay, 3500-4000 words | 45% | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 | 30 Oct |

Assessment is 100% internal.

1. Creative/Critical analysis of a badland. In this reflexive exercise, students are to produce a creative/essayistic text featuring a cinematic badland and present it in class on 21 August. The form of the “text” to be presented is open.

Students must discuss their plans with the course coordinator. They must consider the availability and access to visual and technical resources required to complete the project.

The purpose of the exercise will be to develop an understanding of badlands through an engagement with their iconography and aesthetics. Students are invited to draw material from existing work (film, photography, aural and visual media, visual arts, literature...). The outcomes of this exercise will be in 2 distinct parts:

- a. a created “text” in the form of edited clips, slide shows, web-based montage or any other form agreed upon with the course coordinator.
 - b. a presentation in class with discussion.
2. Critical Essay. This assignment will cover material from weeks 1 to 7. Students will organise their essay around a comparative analysis of at least 2 films drawn from the list of compulsory or recommended screenings and with reference to the critical literature introduced in the course. All essays will be due on 19 September, no later than 2pm.
 3. Research proposal. In the last part of the course, students will devise a research project for which they will perform a literature search and formulate a research question. Research proposals are due on 10 October, no later than 2pm. Proposals will be assessed and returned no later than 15 October. Detailed instructions are available on Blackboard.
 4. Research essay. After receiving feedback on their research proposal, students will then complete the research essay. Due 30 October, no later than 2pm.

Marking Criteria for Assignment 1

- Fulfilling the set task in a clear, direct, relevant and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in class
- Originality and quality of your critical/creative analysis. This will include your ability to conduct independent research from a range of visual, aural, cinematic, and media sources
- An ability to choose examples which illustrate, foreground and reveal some of the characteristics of cinematic badlands
- A form of creative work which suits the purpose of the presentation
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

Marking Criteria for Assignments 2, 3, 4

- Fulfilling the set task in a clear, direct, relevant and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in class
- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to conduct independent research from reputable academic sources
- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your work
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

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 AND RETURN OF WORK

Electronic assignments are submitted as a MS Word file through Blackboard. How to name your file and step-by-step instructions can be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section.

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 found on Blackboard in the same section.

Work will be returned within two weeks of their submission.

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

A list of compulsory readings and screenings will be available on Blackboard. Material will be available on line or on closed reserve in the library.

RECOMMENDED READING

A list of recommended reading as well as additional resources are available on Blackboard.

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

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| Week 1 | Date | Week of 15 July Landscape and Cinema 1 Screening: <i>Badlands</i> , Terrence Malick 1973 (93 min) |
| Week 2 | Date | Week of 22 July Landscape and Cinema 2 Screening: <i>Gerry</i> , Gus Van Sant 2002 (103 min) |
| Week 3 | Date | Week of 29 July Wilderness, desert, badlands and terminal spaces of cinema Screening: <i>Camera Natura</i> , Ross Gibson, 1984 (32 min); and <i>Walkabout</i> , Nicolas Roeg 1971 (95 min) |
| Week 4 | Date | Week of 5 August Landscape, Badlands and Settler Colonialism 1 Screening: <i>Beau Travail</i> , Claire Denis 1999 (90 min) |
| Week 5 | Date | Week of 12 August Landscape, Badlands and Settler Colonialism 2 Screening: <i>Dead Man</i> , Jim Jarmusch, 1995 (115 min) |
| Week 6 | Date | Week of 19 August (Re)Producing a Cinematic Badland: Presentation and discussion of students' badlands Screening: <i>Vigil</i> , Vincent Ward 1984 (90 min) <u>Assignment 1 Due Wednesday 21 August</u> |
| Mid Trimester Break: | | Monday 26 August to Sunday 8 September 2013 |

Week 7 Date Week of 9 September

Badlands and Film Tourism (Guest lecturer: Alfio Leotta)

Screening: *Australia*, Baz Luhrmann 2008 (165 min) Note the length of the film.

Week 8 Date Week of 16 September

Badlands, the environment, and ecological disaster 1

Screening: *Lessons of Darkness*, Werner Herzog 1992 (50 min); and *Petropolis: Aerial Perspectives on the Alberta Tar Sands*, Peter Mettler 2009 (43 min)

Assignment 2 due Thursday 19 September, no later than 2pm

Week 9 Date Week of 23 September

Badlands, the environment, and ecological disaster 2

Screening: *Princess Mononoke*, Hayao Miyazaki 1997 (134 min)

Week 10 Date Week of 30 September

Urban Badlands

Screening: *La Haine*, Mathieu Kassovitz 1999 (98 min) and *Manurewa*, Sam Peacocke 2011 (18 min)

Week 11 Date Week of 7 October

Badlands and War

Screening: *Hell and Back*, Danfung Dennis 2011 (88 min); and/or *Badland*, Francesco Lucente 2007 (165 min)

Assignment 3 Due Thursday 10 October no later than 2pm

Week 12 Date Week of 14 October

No screening

Seminar will take place on Monday 14 October. Research essay discussion and preparation.

Assignment 4 Due Wednesday 30 October no later than 2 pm