

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS**

**HISTORY PROGRAMME**

**HIST 339: History on Film/Film on History  
20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 2 2013**

**Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 15 July to 17 November 2013

**Teaching dates:** 15 July to 18 October 2013

**Mid-trimester break:** 26 August to 8 September 2013

**Last assessment item due:** 17 October 2013

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

**Class times and locations**

Lectures: Thursday, 11.00-11.50,

Lecture Venue: HMLT104 (Hugh McKenzie, 104)

Film Screening: Thursday, 16.00-19.00; MYLT220 (Murphy, 220)

Tutorials: in week 1, students will be asked to sign up for ONE of the following:

Tuesday, 10-11.50	OK406
Thursday, 12-13.50	OK406

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Giacomo Lichtner

Room No: OK425

Phone: 4636756

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Office hours: TBA

## **Communication of additional information**

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

## **Prescription**

This course explores the relationship between History and the Moving Image. Drawing from case studies from four different continents, the course will engage with the theory and practice of cinema's dual role as mirror and catalyst of social trends, as well as with the medium's ability to shape historical consciousness.

## **Course content**

'History on Film/Film on History' is designed to investigate the many facets of the interaction between history and film. The study of Cinema as historical evidence has been a recognised branch to the historical discipline since the late 1970s, but controversy persists on the exact usefulness of film as a source. HIST 339 covers the main theoretical approaches that have been designed to harness cinema as a source in the study of history and the students will be faced with a variety of case studies from both fictional and documentary film and from numerous national cinemas. The course is divided in four sections which tackle all aspects of the 'Film and History' field:

1. Film as Historiophoty
2. Film as Primary Source
3. Film as Vector of Memory
4. Film as Historical Agent

In exploring these concepts through specific case studies, the course allows the student to engage critically with film as historical evidence: as commentary on the past; as commentary on the present; as a medium in the construction of national historical narratives; as a privileged tool of 20th Century political propaganda.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

The primary objective of 'History on Film/Film on History' is to offer a thorough analysis of the theories surrounding the relationship between history and the moving image and provide students with the critical means to assess these theories. In order to achieve this, the course uses a diverse set of case, designed to give students a sense of the complexity of this relationship and, at the same time, to expose them to less familiar forms of cinema.

Students will be expected to become familiar with the key concepts of 'Film and History' and with some aspects of filmmaking, in particular in regard to be able to assess how aesthetic and stylistic choices affect the political and historical interpretation offered by a given film. Students of HIST339 will become familiar with the empirical study of film as a primary source. As they become familiar with these theoretical and practical issues, students will be expected to identify a topic of investigation and develop it into a research essay, using primary and secondary sources in a manner appropriate to 300-level History courses.

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. State the different ways in which History and film interact;
2. Demonstrate the strengths and limitations of existing approaches;
3. Apply the extent to which film has contributed to popular understanding of history in specific contexts;
4. Analyse primary materials, including moving and still images;

5. Judge conflicting arguments and make reasoned judgements about their relative merits; and
6. Formulate a high level of competency in written and oral communication and historiographical analysis.

## Teaching format

The delivery of this course consists of one one-hour lecture and one two-hour tutorial per week. In addition, students are required to watch a film each week either in the allocated class screening or privately. Students will be required to sign up to a tutorial during the first week of the semester. Tutorial preparation each week involves the analysis of a film and of written material as required.

## Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Complete the four assessment items specified for HIST 339.
2. Attend at least 7 of 10 seminars.

Faculty guidelines permit you to miss up to 3 tutorials without penalty. Extra absences will result in a student failing terms, 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.

## Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, tutorials and film screenings, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	In-class contribution (see below)	10%	1- 6	varies
2	Historiographical Essay (1500 words)	20%	2, 3, 4, 6	23/8
3	Research Essay (4000 words)	40%	1-6	27/9
4	In-class test (2 hours)	30%	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	17/10

The assessment procedure aims to establish that the students have gained a good overall understanding of the ways in which film and history interact, and that they have developed an in-depth knowledge of one specific aspect within the broader field. Students will be expected to become familiar with relevant theories around film and history as well as master their application through case studies selected both by the lecturer and by the students themselves. To these ends, students of HIST 339 will be asked to set the scene with a historiographical essay on film and history, and then apply the theories studied to an extensive research essay. Moreover, a small percentage of the final mark will be determined by students' contribution to the tutorials, during which each student will be expected to engage with the main themes and take part in their discussion.

(a) **In-class contribution** worth **10%** of the final grade.

This assignment assesses the student's overall contribution to the tutorials. Students are expected to offer a sustained contribution to their class by engaging weekly with the debates raised in readings, visual sources and discussion. On at least one occasion during the course, each student will be asked to assume responsibility for a given topic and offer a short presentation to the class. This part of the assessment package is designed to maximise learning and ensure that your oral communication skills are developed alongside your written ones. This is a space to give you the confidence to put forward your ideas and consider them in the light of your peers' responses.

In assessing your work, the marker will be looking for the following:

1. A strong grasp of the relevant sources; the ability to answer questions;
2. Inquisitiveness and intellectual curiosity; an informed personal opinion and the ability to go beyond the week's readings;
3. Fluent communication skills; the clear exposition of your argument;
4. Respect for the opinions of others;
5. A sustained participation in in-class debates throughout the course.

(b) **Historiographical Essay (1,500 words)**, worth **20%**,

**Deadline:** Friday 23 August 2013.

The essay requires the student to master the range of arguments that have been offered by scholars trying to rationalise the relationship between history and film. The historiographical essay will offer an overview of existing theories and critically assess their respective strengths and weaknesses. This assignment enables students to organise intellectually ideas around the subject and thus provides them with the ideal theoretical framework from which to tackle the research essay.

In assessing your work, the marker will consider the extent to which:

1. You have been able to select and understand the most important sources;
2. You have assessed the literature critically;
3. You have weighed scholars' arguments in relation to each other;
4. You have expressed your argument clearly;
5. You have employed competently the referencing and footnoting standards of the discipline.

(c) **Research Essay**, (of approximately 4000 words), worth **40%**:

**Deadlines: Friday 16 August (Proposal); Friday 27 September (Final Essay)**

The research essay tests your ability to

1. identify a suitable topic;
2. develop the idea within a clear intellectual framework;
3. research the project through the appropriate use of secondary and primary sources;
4. complete the essay according to given time and length limits, using clear and confident prose, and appropriate referencing.

To this end you will first complete a **Research Proposal, due no later than Friday 16 August.**

The **research proposal** is designed to assist the student in identifying and developing a suitable research project. Students will be provided with a template they can choose to adopt. The proposal is expected to provide: a working title for the essay; a brief explanation of the proposed topic; a set of clear and specific research questions; lists of primary and secondary sources. In completing the proposal, the student will be expected to:

1. Apply critical thinking to the selection of a feasible topic;
2. Display a good understanding of the range of sources that will be needed to complete the research project successfully;

3. Demonstrate the ability to plan ahead and organise one's thoughts and workload. The proposal is not assessed but is part of the requirements for your research essay.

### **Research Essay is due on Friday 27 September.**

By completing the **research essay**, students will demonstrate their ability to design and complete an independent research project to a standard appropriate to 300-level study. Having selected and agreed with the course coordinator a viable and interesting research topic, students will carry out primary and secondary research to refine and answer their specific research questions. Although some supervision will be available, the research essay invests you with the responsibility to manage your own work and in particular your own time: you will need to devise an appropriate research and writing schedule. This assignment tests your ability to select, understand and organise relevant secondary literature, deal with complex historical issues and submit a finished piece of work that is accomplished both in form and content.

The essay will be judged according to the student's ability to:

1. Engage critically with a broad range of relevant secondary sources and place the topic within its specific historiographical context;
2. Identify, assess and utilise appropriately relevant primary sources;
3. Build and sustain a coherent argument, developed consistently through the essay;
4. Develop a coherent structure, backed by consistent and rational paragraphing;
5. Present complex ideas clearly, through a fluent, accurate and articulate prose;
6. Employ comprehensive referencing: appropriate footnoting and an appropriate bibliography.

(d) **In-class Test**, worth **30%** to be held during the last film screening slot (2 hours)

**Deadline: Thursday 17 October, 4.10-6.00; MYLT220**

The test is designed to assess the student's overall understanding of the course and to what extent the learning objectives have been achieved. Accordingly, students are most likely to succeed in this task if they have attended class consistently and contributed actively to the learning process. The test is designed to showcase a different set of skills, such as:

1. A good grasp of Film and History, its theoretical and methodological challenges
2. A good understanding of the key issues in the relationship between Film and History
3. A good overall command of films and readings analysed in this course
4. The ability to think laterally and make links between different yet related topics
5. The ability to think critically, using your knowledge to devise a personal answer to a set question
6. The ability to think quickly and write a coherent and concise answer in a given time
7. The ability to draw examples from films and employ them as evidence in the exposition of your argument

To give you a chance to prove these skills, the test will be in essay form: you will be required to answer a broad thematic question and analyse a film sequence. Further guidance on how to prepare and what to expect will be given in tutorials and, especially, in the revision tutorial held on week 11.

### **Submission and return of work**

Essays should be submitted through the office essay drop-off point, Old Kirk 405, together with completed cover sheet which is available on Blackboard and/or from the office (OK405).

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Room 405, Old Kirk Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

## Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **a deduction of 5% for the first weekday late, and 2% per weekday thereafter, up to a maximum of 10 weekdays.** Work that is more than 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In such cases, students should get in touch with the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## Set texts

There is no prescribed textbook for HIST 339: 'History on Film/Film on History'. An electronic Book of readings will be compiled to aid the students' preparation for tutorials. These readings will be available each week through the Library's HIST 339 Course Reserve and through Blackboard.

In addition to the prescribed weekly readings, all students will benefit from becoming familiar with key theoretical works, in particular by Robert Rosenstone, Marnie Hughes-Warrington, Pierre Sorlin, André Bazin and others. A thematic bibliography for the course will be available on Blackboard and distributed during Week 1 as an appendix to this course guide.

## Recommended Reading:

Robert Rosenstone, *Revisioning History* (Princeton: 1995)

Id., *History on Film/Film on History* (London: 2006)

Marnie Hughes-Warrington, *History Goes to the Movies* (Abingdon: 2007)

Pierre Sorlin, *The Film in History: Restaging the Past* (Oxford: 1980)

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

## Student feedback

This course is now a permanent course, Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Graduate attributes: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/hist-overview#grad-attributes>
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-charter)

- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)