

FILM 206 Hollywood Cinema

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015



Jurassic Park (1993)

20 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2015
Easter/Mid-Trimester break:	24 August to 6 September 2015
Last assessment item due:	27 October 2015
Withdrawal dates:	

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Tuesday	1510-1800	HMLT104 (Screening)
Wednesday	1510-1700	HMLT205 (Lecture)

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the FILM 206 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial Instructions” and follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference. Tutorial rooms will be listed on Blackboard and on the noticeboard outside the administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff:	Dr Tim Groves (Course Coordinator)
Email:	tim.groves@vuw.ac.nz
Phone:	4635410
Room:	83FT 303
Office Hours:	TBA
Tutor details will be provided	

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Important course information will be communicated in lectures and 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.

PRESCRIPTION

This course will examine one or more periods of Hollywood cinema from an aesthetic, historical, cultural, and/or economic perspective. In 2015 the course will survey some of the key features of contemporary Hollywood cinema since about 1990. These may include the role of the Blockbuster and franchise films, narrative and stylistic developments, CGI and immersive entertainment, Indiewood, the 'smart' film, and representations of gender.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of important concepts, ideas and debates within Film Studies about contemporary Hollywood cinema.
- Employ their improved critical skills, including their ability to characterise scholarly texts.
- Display evidence of their enhanced textual analysis and research skills.
- Demonstrate evidence of their creative and/or practical skills.
- Demonstrate improvement in their ability to communicate in a scholarly manner.

TEACHING FORMAT

This course will be delivered via a weekly three hour screening, a two hour lecture and a one hour tutorial. You are expected to attend all of these. Lectures will examine the weekly topic, screening, introduce key concepts, and issues; they may be interactive. Tutorials will involve discussions about screenings, lectures and assigned readings.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Submit the creative assignment, take home test, and final essay on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work) in order to demonstrate the acquisition of CLOs (see below)

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester or about 11 hours per teaching week in addition to scheduled classes.

ASSESSMENT

There are four assignments in this course. Further details will be posted.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Creative Exercise	15%	1, 2, 4	August 21
2	Take Home Test (1800 words)	30%	1, 2, 3, 5	September 7
3	Reading Reports (1200-1400 words)	15%	1, 2, 5	Weeks 8, 9, 10, 11
4	Final Essay (2500 words)	40%	1, 2, 3, 5	October 27

Assignment One: Creative Exercise (15%)

Due Date: Friday, August 21st, 5pm

Description:

This creative assignment will cover topics discussed in the first five weeks of the course. You will have a choice of three options: make a trailer for a Hollywood film, recut a scene from a Hollywood film using the principles of intensified continuity, or developing a high concept film package. You will also provide a short written explanation of your project.

Assessment Criteria:

- Completing the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in FILM 206
- The originality and quality of your findings, including creativity and communication
- Technical skill where appropriate
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in film analysis where appropriate
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will enhance your knowledge of key concepts, ideas and debates about contemporary Hollywood cinema. It will develop your creative, critical, and/or practical skills.

Assignment Two: Take Home Test (30%)

Due Date: Monday, September 7th, 5pm

Length: 1800 words (approx.)

Description:

This assignment will cover topics discussed in the first six weeks of the course. The test will consist of a mixture of short answer questions and an essay. Topics will be distributed in week 6.

Assessment Criteria:

- Completing the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in FILM 206

- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to synthesise research materials, engage in textual analysis, and develop and express your ideas
- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your assignment
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in film analysis where appropriate
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will improve your knowledge of the topics studied in the first six weeks of the course. It will enable you to develop your textual analysis, critical, and argumentation skills. It will also improve your written expression.

Assignment Three: Reading Reports (15%)

Due Date: Tutorials in weeks 8, 9, 10, 11

Length: 1200-1400 words in total

Description:

In this assignment you will write four short tutorial reports (about 300-350 words each). Each report will focus on an assigned reading for the week. You will either be asked to answer a set question about the article or evaluate a section of it. You must bring your report to your tutorial in the week indicated.

Assessment Criteria:

- Completion of the set task in a clear, direct, legible, relevant, complete and timely manner.
- Evidence of engagement with the specified article
- Evidence of critical and analytical skills
- Quality and originality of the report
- Quality and fluency of your expression

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will develop your understanding of key concepts and/or issues in contemporary Hollywood cinema. It will also enhance your critical and expression skills.

Assignment Four: Essay (40%)

Due Date: Tuesday, October 27th, 5pm

Length: 2500 words

Description:

This assignment will cover the issues discussed in weeks 6-12 of the course, such as 3D cinema, the 'smart' film, representations of gender, responses to 9/11, puzzle films and postclassical narration.

Assessment Criteria:

- Completing the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in FILM 206
- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to conduct independent research from reputable academic sources, synthesise research materials, engage in textual analysis, and develop and express your ideas

- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your essay
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in film analysis
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will improve your knowledge of one of the topics studied in the weeks 5-12 of the course. It will enable you to develop your textual analysis, research, critical, and argumentation skills. It will also improve your written expression.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

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.

Hardcopy assignments are submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office in 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Remember to fill in your tutor’s name.

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.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 13 November 2015.**

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.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT AND/OR ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

You may need to use film editing software for the first assignment. The University’s Mac lab can be booked for this purpose.

SET TEXTS

There is no textbook for this course. A list of weekly tutorial readings will be posted. These will be available in electronic form via Blackboard.

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

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Students who took the course previously were happy with it, and made no significant suggestions for changes.

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Please note that this programme is provisional and subject to change.

Week 1	14/7	Introduction to the Course; What is contemporary Hollywood cinema?
--------	------	--

Week 2	21/7	Blockbusters
--------	------	--------------

Week 3	28/7	Marketing and Intellectual Property
--------	------	-------------------------------------

Week 4	4/8	Narrative and Spectacle
--------	-----	-------------------------

Week 5	11/8	Neo-classicism
--------	------	----------------

Week 6	18/8	Indiewood (Assignment 1 due August 21)
--------	------	---

Mid Trimester Break:	Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015	
-----------------------------	--	--

Week 7	8/9	'Smart' films and the new sincerity
--------	-----	-------------------------------------

Week 8	15/9	Complex narratives
--------	------	--------------------

Week 9	22/9	Reading 9/11
--------	------	--------------

Week 10	29/9	Superheroes and masculinity
---------	------	-----------------------------

Week 11	6/10	3D cinema
---------	------	-----------

Week 12	13/10	The wrap up
---------	-------	-------------

Final Assignment Due: Tuesday, October 27