

FILM 305 Cinemedia



Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

20 Points

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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 refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

| | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Screenings: | Monday | 09.00 - 11.50am | 77 Fairlie Terrace FT77 306 |
| Lectures: | Tuesday | 10.00 - 11.50am | 77 Fairlie Terrace FT77 306 |

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the MDIA 221 site on Blackboard: go to "Tutorial Instructions" and follow the instructions carefully. Remember to record your tutorial time, day and room for future reference.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Course Coordinator: | Kim Wheatley | Kim.Wheatley@vuw.ac.nz |
| Phone: | 04 463 7445 | |
| Room: | 102, 81 Fairlie Terrace | |
| Office Hours: | TBA | |

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Course related information will be communicated via the FILM 305 Blackboard site, as well as at the start of lectures and in tutorials. Occasional emails will be sent through Blackboard to students' VUW email address. 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 examines the relationships between cinema and other media in a variety of contexts. Topics may include analogue and/or digital technologies, animation, 3D, and/or multiple platforms. In 2015 it will focus on the convergence of cinema and the technological apparatus of modern warfare. FILM 305 will explore a number of militarised applications of the cinematic technique, including drones, video games, propaganda films, and training videos. The course will include both a weekly film screening and a lecture.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Explain the convergence of cinema, technology, and warfare.
2. Demonstrate enhanced critical skills, including the ability to summarise and critique scholarly texts.
3. Employ textual analysis and research skills in the study of films and other war-media.
4. Communicate ideas and arguments in a scholarly manner.
5. Display evidence of practical and/or creative skills.

TEACHING FORMAT

This course will consist of two weekly lecture and screening sessions. Films will be screened on Mondays, in advance of the Tuesday lecture. Students are also required to attend tutorials, which begin in Week 2.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours over the trimester. In addition to spending around 6 hours per week attending lectures, screenings and tutorials, you should spend approximately 5 hours each week on reading, preparing for tutorials, and reflecting on lectures. The remaining time should be spent working on assignments. The exact times spent on such activities will vary depending on your personal needs. Preparation for assignments should take place a number of weeks in advance of the due dates.

ASSESSMENT

Film 305 is 100% internally assessed.

| Assessment items and workload per item | | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|--|-----|------------|-----------|
| 1 | Reading Analysis (800 – 1,000 words) | 15% | 1, 2, 4 | 5pm 03/08 |
| 2 | Mashup Video (min. 2 minutes) + Reflection (min. 500 words) OR Close Analysis (min. 1,200 words). | 20% | 1, 3, 5 | 5pm 21/08 |
| 3 | Comparative Analysis (min. 1,500 words) | 25% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 5pm 09/10 |
| 4 | Research Essay (min. 2,500 words) | 40% | 1, 2, 3, 4 | 5pm 27/10 |

Further instructions and marking criteria for the assignments will be provided in class.

ASSIGNMENT #1: Reading Analysis (800 – 1,000 words) due 5pm Monday 3 August.

Write a critical summary of the set readings for week two, which consist of excerpts from Paul Virilio's *War and Cinema*.

ASSIGNMENT #2: due 5pm Friday 21 August.

Option A: Mashup Video (min. 2 minutes) + **Reflection** (min. 500 words).

Assemble a mashup video exhibiting the use of a cinematic weapon. This short video is to be accompanied by a written critical reflection outlining the implications of the convergence of war and the cinematic apparatus depicted in your video.

Option B: Close Analysis (min. 1200 words).

Write a close analysis (in essay form) of a documentary or feature film that exemplifies the convergence of war and the cinematic apparatus.

ASSIGNMENT #3: Comparative Analysis (min. 1,500 words) due 5pm Friday 9 October.

Write a comparative analysis (in essay form) of two examples of "counter-cinema" filmmaking.

ASSIGNMENT #4: Research Essay (min. 2,500 words) due 5pm Tuesday 27 October.

Write a research essay on an approved topic that engages with any of the themes covered in the course.

All written assignments for FILM 305 must be properly referenced. The preferred referencing style for Film 305 is MLA. See the SEFTMS Student Handbook for MLA specific referencing guidelines.

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.

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.

Your marked assignment will be found on Blackboard in the same section.

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.

SET TEXTS

There is no textbook for Film 305. All assigned readings will be made available electronically via Blackboard. Refer to page 7 of the Course Outline for the full weekly reading list.

RECOMMENDED READING

Additional recommended readings will be made available electronically 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

[Cinemedia has](#) a new syllabus in 2015. As such, [student feedback from last year's version of the course is not applicable.](#)

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

Part 1: War and Cinema

Week 1 13 July

Introduction

Required Reading: Daly, K. "Remediating the War in Iraq." *Peace Review: A Journal of Social Justice* 21.2 (2009): 171-181. Web.

Programme: No tutorial this week. Sign up for a tutorial via Blackboard.

Screening: *The Sky Crawlers* (2009).

Week 2 20 July

The Logistics of Perception

Required Reading: Selected Excerpts from: Virilio, P. *War and Cinema: The Logistics of Perception*. Trans. Patrick Camiller. London: Verso, 1989. Print.

Screening: *Patlabor 2* (1993).

Part 2: Cinematic Weapons

Week 3 27 July

Propaganda/Vision/Spectacle

Required Reading: Kelman, K. "Propaganda as Vision: *Triumph of the Will*." *Logos* 2.4 (2003). Web.

Screening: *Triumph of the Will* (2000).

Week 4 3 Aug

Bomb Phenomenology

Required Reading: Lamarre, T. "Born of Trauma. *Akira* and Capitalist Modes of Destruction." *Positions* 16.1 (2007): 131-156. Web.

[Farocki, H.](#) "[Phantom Images](#)." *Public* 29 (2004): 12-22. Web.

Screening: *Akira* (1987).

Assignment #1: due Monday 3 August at 5pm.

Week 5 10 Aug

Virtual War

Required Reading: Fagan, C. "Documenting Virtual War." *InMedia* 4.1 (2013): 1-14. Web.

Screening: *Full Battle Rattle* (2008).

Week 6 17 Aug

Drone/Surveillance Cinemas

Required Reading: Stahl, R. "What the Drone Saw: The Cultural Optics of the Unmanned War." *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 67.5 (2013): 659-674. Web.

Stewart, G. "Digital Fatigue." *Film Quarterly* 62.4 (2009): 45-55. Web.

Screening: *Body of Lies* (2008).

Assignment #2: due Friday 21 August at 5pm.

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

Part 3: Counter Cinemas

Week 7 7 Sept **Post-Traumatic Cinema**

Required Reading: Hirsch, J. "Post-Traumatic Cinema and the Holocaust Documentary." *Trauma and Cinema: Cross Cultural Explorations*. Eds. Ann E. Kaplan & Ban Wang. Hong Kong: Hong Kong UP, 2004. 93-121. Print.

Dwyer, L.K. "Picturing Violence: Anti-Politics and *The Act of Killing*." *Critical Asian Studies* 46.1 (2015): 183-188. Web.

Screening: *The Act of Killing* (2012).

Week 8 14 Sept **The Embedded Camera**

Required Reading: West, B. "Groundhog War: The Limits of Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan." *Foreign Affairs* 90.5 (2011): 163-171. Web.

Screening: *Restrepo* (2010).

Week 9 21 Sept **Machinima**

Required Reading: Starrs, D.B. "Reverbing: *The Red vs. Blue* Machinima as Anti-War Film." *Continuum* 24.2 (2010): 267-279. Web.

Screening: Selected Episodes from *Red vs. Blue* (2003-2015).

Week 10 28 Sept **Collapse of the Spectacle**

Required Reading: Gana, N. "Reel Violence: *Paradise Now* and the Collapse of the Spectacle." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 28.1 (2008): 20-37. Web.

Screening: *Paradise Now* (2005).

Week 11 5 Oct **Anime as Pacifist Cinema**

Required Reading: Cavallaro, D. "*Porco Rosso*." *The Animé Art of Hayao Miyazaki*. Jefferson: McFarland & Company, 2006. 96-103. Print.

Screening: *Porco Rosso* (1992).

Assignment #3: due Friday 9 October at 5pm.

Week 12 12 Oct **Conclusion**

Programme: No screening this week.

Assignment #4: due Tuesday 27 October at 5pm.