

Unit Outline

HES202/302
Film Theory
Semester 1, 2008
<http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/>

Convenor:	Dr Lisa Fletcher Room: Humanities Building, Room 566 Phone: 6226 1725 Email: Lisa.Fletcher@utas.edu.au
Consultation Hours:	Tuesday 10-11am Thursday 10-11am
Unit Description:	This unit aims to provide students with the skills to develop theoretically informed arguments in response to films. Film Theory is organised around three modules: "The Shot" introduces students to key aspects of film form and style; "The Narrative" explores narratological questions of film structure and authorship; "The Context" encourages students to critically analyse films using a range of theoretical approaches and methodologies.
Unit Aims and Objectives:	The aims of this unit are to enable students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop knowledge of key terms and frameworks for film analysis; • engage critically and analytically with a range of films; and • investigate some of the key theoretical approaches and methodologies in film studies.
Learning Outcomes:	Students taking this unit will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. build <i>knowledge</i> in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above); 2. develop proficiency in techniques for conducting <i>research</i> in film studies; 3. enhance skills in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) written <i>communication</i>, with special emphasis on writing about film (reviews, shot-by-shot analyses, essays) and b) oral <i>communication</i>, through short class presentations and participation in tutorial activities; and 4. enhance skills in <i>problem solving</i> through assessment tasks and tutorial activities, which develop critical analysis techniques in screen studies.

Required Texts:	Bordwell & Thompson <i>Film Art: An Introduction</i> 8 th edition (McGraw Hill)
When Taught:	<p><u>Lecture</u> SB.Physics314.LT2, Wednesday 2.10pm – 3.00pm</p> <p><u>Film Screening</u> (Weeks 2-12) SB.Physics314.LT2, Wednesday 3.10pm – 6.00pm</p> <p>Note: Most screenings will conclude by 5.30pm. The Lecture/Seminar Schedule includes information about screening times.</p> <p><u>Tutorials</u> (Weeks 2-13) SB.Hum548, Thursday 11.00am – 12.30pm.</p>
Assessment:	3000 words internal assessment (60%); 2-hour examination (40%).

LECTURE/TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Date	Module	Topic	Screening
Week 1 27 February		Introduction: At the Movies	NO SCREENING
Week 2 5 March		Behind the Scenes: Production, Distribution, Exhibition	<i>The Sweet Hereafter</i> (1998) 112 mins
Week 3 12 March	1. The Shot	Guest Lecture: <i>The Sweet Hereafter</i> , Prof. Gene Walz, University of Manitoba, Canada. Tutorial Topic: Mise-en-Scene	NO SCREENING
Week 4 19 March		Cinematography	<i>Breathless</i> (1960) 87 mins
		Easter Break – 20-26 March	
Week 5 2 April		Editing	<i>Battleship Potemkin</i> (1925) 75 mins
Week 6 9 April		Putting it All Together	<i>Citizen Kane</i> (1941) 119 mins
Week 7 16 April	2. The Narrative	Narrative Form	<i>His Girl Friday</i> (1940) 92 mins
Week 8 23 April		Playing Games with Narrative Form	<i>Being John Malkovich</i> (1999) 112 mins
Week 9 30 April	3. The Context	Film Art and Language	<i>Donnie Darko</i> (2002) 113 mins OR 133 mins if we watch the Director's Cut
Week 10 7 May		Film Authorship	<i>Vertigo</i> (1963) 128 mins
Week 11 14 May		Film and Ideology	Disney feature animation TBA
Week 12 21 May		Film and Nation	<i>Guru</i> (2007) 166 mins
Week 13 28 May		Conclusion: At the Movies	
		Study Period: 2-6 June	
		Examination Period: 7-24 June	

ASSESSMENT

Assessment in this unit takes the form of three assignments to be submitted during the semester and a formal examination in the examination period. Detailed instructions and assessment criteria for the assignments will be distributed in the first lecture.

ASSIGNMENT 1: Film Review (500 words)

This assignment has two parts:

1. A 5 minute oral presentation;
2. A 500 word written review. The written review must be submitted within one week of the oral presentation.

The Film Review is worth 10% of your final mark.

Note: Both parts of this assignment are compulsory. The written review will only be accepted after the oral presentation. All oral presentations must be delivered by **17 April**.

The film review will assess learning outcomes 1 & 2.

ASSIGNMENT 2: Shot-by-shot Analysis (1000 words)

This assignment will focus on films studied in Modules 1 & 2.

The Shot-by-Shot Analysis is worth 20% of your final mark.

DUE DATE: 4pm, **24 April**

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2 & 3.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Research Essay (1500 words)

This assignment will focus on topics covered in Module 3.

The Research Essay is worth 30% of your final mark.

Note: Students in this unit are required to participate in “reading groups” in tutorials. This will involve preparing one critical article for small group discussion. Students who do not prepare an article will lose 5% of the available marks for this assignment; i.e. the essay will be marked out of 25.

DUE DATE: 4pm, **30 May**

EXAMINATION

The examination will be scheduled in the official examination period. The timetable is published on the UTAS website.

The exam is worth 40% of your final mark.

This assignment will assess learning outcomes 1, 2a and 3.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Assignments

Students are required to submit a signed cover sheet with every assignment. This includes a declaration that all material submitted is their own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others and that they have read the University statement on Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism) on the University website at www.utas.edu.au/plagiarism or in the Student Information Handbook.

Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a signed cover sheet will not be marked.** Students who submit assignments without a signed cover sheet will be contacted once via their UTAS email address; in such instances the cover sheet must be completed within two weeks of the due date.

All assignments must be submitted in hard-copy (not by email) and placed in the essay box at the School office on or before 5pm on the due date. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments. Assignments submitted on time will be returned within three weeks of the due date; once on time assignments have been returned no further late assignments will be accepted. All marked assignments will be returned in tutorials unless otherwise advised.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be penalized as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter. Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or a letter from a counsellor in the case of a serious non-medical reason.

Difficulties with your Studies

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you should raise these with your lecturer and/or one of the following Student Services staff as soon as possible:

- Learning Skills Adviser
- Disability Adviser
- Careers Adviser
- Student Counsellor

University Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

"Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else's thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student's work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines, and the academic integrity resources on the web at <http://www.utas.edu.au/tl/supporting/academicintegrity/index.html>.

The intentional copying of someone else's work as one's own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in the Ordinance of Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct, see <http://www.utas.edu.au/universitycouncil/legislation/>.

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author's permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

Assignment Presentation

The Screen Studies core units use MLA Style, which is characterized by in-text referencing and a list of works cited. See the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. Ed. Joseph Gibaldi (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003). For a brief introduction, refer to http://www.utas.edu.au/english/english1/mla_citation_syst.doc, MLA Citations System: A Brief Guide.

Marking Scale

The following distribution of marks and grades is applied in assessing your work:

- High Distinction (HD)—80-100%
- Distinction (DN)—70-79%
- Credit (CR)—60-69%
- Pass (PP)—50-59%
- Fail (NN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Assessment Criteria

The following criteria apply to assessment of the essay:

- Effectiveness of introduction
- Relevance and coherence of argument
- Effectiveness of conclusion
- Scope of textual referencing
- Use of critics
- Attention to expression, spelling, proof-reading and stylesheet.

IT Support

Learning online—for online learning and Vista support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>
Information Technology Services—for general IT Support (includes link to UTAS download website)
<http://www.utas.edu.au/servicedesk/student/index.html>

Library Services—for information literacy support – <http://www.utas.edu.au/library/>
Help Desk (email HelpDesk@utas.edu.au or 6226 1818, within University 1818)