



School of English, Journalism
& European Languages

Unit Outline

HES303 Film Movements and Genres

Semester 2, 2009

http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/Screen_Studies.htm

Unit coordinator:	Mr Dominic Lennard	
Contact details:	Room:	569
	Building:	Humanities
	Campus:	Sandy Bay, Hobart
	Telephone:	(03) 6226 2894
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Consultation times:	Thursdays, 1.10 - 2.10 pm.	
Unit description:	<p>This unit explores the major movements and genres in the history of film. It situates Hollywood and Independent films within a range of historical, theoretical and cultural contexts as a way of interrogating the way films make meaning. It aims to provide students with an understanding of the key movements and genres in film studies, an appreciation of the history of filmmaking practices and an ability to read film contextually.</p>	

<p>Lecturers:</p>	<p>Mr Dominic Lennard (DL)</p> <p>Dr. Guinevere Narraway (GN)</p>
<p>Unit aims and objectives:</p>	<p>The aims of this unit are to enable students to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. engage critically and analytically with films from diverse historical and cultural contexts; 2. develop knowledge of key theories and methodologies used in the study of film movements and genres; 2. gain an appreciation of the significance of film movements and genres to the production, distribution and reception of films; 3. discover the role of cultural and historical context in the production and reception of commercial and independent cinema; 4. identify and explain the significance of various film movements to the greater history of film artistry and production.
<p>Learning outcomes:</p>	<p>Students taking this unit will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. build knowledge in the areas described in the Unit Aims and Objectives (above); 2. develop advanced proficiency in techniques for conducting research in film studies, through the preparation of an Annotated Bibliography and Research Essay; 3. enhance skills in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) written communication, with special emphasis on writing about film; and b) oral communication, through short class presentations and participation in tutorial activities; 4. enhance skills in problem solving through assessment tasks and tutorial activities, which develop critical analysis techniques in screen studies.

Required texts:

- HES303 Film Movements and Genres Unit Reader
- Bordwell & Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 8th edition. (McGraw Hill).

Films:

High Noon (1952)

Once Upon a Time in the West (C'era una volta il West, 1968)

The Exorcist (1973)

Deep Water (2006)

Kiss Me Deadly (1955)

Secret Beyond the Door... (1948)

The Bicycle Thief (aka "Bicycle Thieves" [*Ladri di biciclette*], 1948)

Breathless (À bout de souffle, 1960)

Bonnie and Clyde (1967)

Meshes of the Afternoon (1943)

The Limey (1999)

Note: Required texts are stocked by and can be purchased from the Co-op Bookshop online or on campus. The library also holds copies of all required texts on reserve. Students are not expected to purchase the set film texts and screenings of all films will be offered during the semester (as well as being accessible via the library).

<p>Timetable</p>	<p>The timetable for this unit can be viewed online at: http://student.admin.utas.edu.au/coursesenrolment/timetable/</p> <p>Lectures: (Weeks 14 – 26) Wednesday 1.10 - 2 pm, SB.UniCentre103.Flex</p> <p>Film Screening: (Weeks 15 – 25) Tuesday 3.10 – 6pm, SB.Geo211.LT</p> <p>You are required to watch one film in preparation for the lecture and tutorial each week. If you are unable to attend the weekly screening, you must make arrangements to watch the film in your own time. Please remember that only some of the films will be available for purchase or loan. All of the films will be available for short-term loan from the Morris Miller library</p> <p>Tutorials: Thursday, 11.00am - 12.30pm (Weeks 15-26)</p> <p>Tutorials begin in the second week of semester (week 15).</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>Tutorial participation (10%)</p> <p>1,000 word annotated bibliography (15%)</p> <p>2,500 word research essay (35%)</p> <p>2hr examination (40%)</p>

LECTURE / SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Lecturer	Screening
14	Introduction: Studying Film Genres	DL	none
15	The Western	DL	<i>High Noon</i> (1952)
16	Reimagining the West: Revisionist and Spaghetti Westerns	DL	<i>Once Upon a Time in the West (C'era una volta il West, 1968)</i>
17	Horror	DL	<i>The Exorcist</i> (1973)
18	Documentary	DL	<i>Deep Water</i> (2006)
19	Film Noir	GN	<i>Kiss Me Deadly</i> (1955)
20	The Noir Thriller and Melodrama	GN	<i>Secret Beyond the Door...</i> (1948)
Mid-semester break: 31 Aug – 6 Sep 2009			
21	Italian Neorealism	GN	<i>The Bicycle Thief</i> (aka <i>Bicycle Thieves</i> [<i>Ladri di biciclette</i>], 1948)
22	The French New Wave	DL	<i>Breathless (À bout de souffle, 1960)</i>
23	The New Hollywood	GN	<i>Bonnie and Clyde</i> (1967)
24	Experimental Film	GN	<i>Meshes of the Afternoon</i> (1943)
25	Independent Film	GN	<i>The Limey</i> (1999)
26	Conclusion and Exam Preparation	DL	none
Study week: 19 – 23 Oct 2009			
Exam period: 24 Oct – 10 Nov 2009			

ASSESSMENT

Task	Due	Percentage
Tutorial participation	n/a	10%
Annotated Bibliography	4pm, 28 August	15%
Research Essay	4pm, 2 October	35%
Examination	n/a	40%

Assessment task 1: Tutorial Participation	
Task description	In the first tutorial students will be required to select a week in which to deliver a short oral presentation to the group and provide a question for discussion on the weekly readings and/or film.
Task length	n/a
Links to learning outcomes	This task will assess learning outcomes 1, 3b, and 4.
Assessment criteria	To complete this task you should: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate knowledge of key theories and methodologies used in the study of film movements and genres; 2. demonstrate oral communication skills; 3. demonstrate skills of critical analysis relevant to screen studies.

Assessment task 2: Annotated Bibliography	
Task description	<p>Students are encouraged to develop advanced proficiency for conducting research in screen studies through the completion of an annotated bibliography.</p> <p>It is highly recommended that students consult the library's Screen Studies subject guide when engaging in research for written assessment tasks: http://utas.libguides.com/screen_studies</p>
Task length	1000 words
Links to learning outcomes	This task assesses learning outcomes 1 and 2.
Assessment criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate knowledge of key theories and methodologies used in the study of film movements and genres; 2. show proficiency in conducting research in film studies; 3. communicate effectively in the context of an annotated bibliography using: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) logical and appropriate structure b) clear expression c) accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling d) referencing that conforms to MLA style.
Submission instructions	All written assignments are to be submitted to the School of English, Journalism and European Languages office, accompanied by a signed coversheet.

Assessment task 3: Research Essay	
Task description	<p>You are required to complete 1 (ONE) essay in this unit:</p> <p>This assignment gives students the opportunity to add depth to their understanding of one of the film movements/genres studied during the semester. The essay task will ask students to use ideas developed throughout the course to respond to one or more films included in the required or suggested viewing lists. Essay questions will be provided later in the semester. Students are welcome to devise their own topic; however, this must be approved by the Unit Coordinator.</p>
Task length	2500 words
Links to learning outcomes	This task will assess learning outcomes 1, 2, and 3a.
Assessment criteria	<p>To complete the essay, you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. show proficiency in conducting research in film studies; 2. demonstrate working knowledge of key theories and methodologies used in the study of film movements and genres; 3. demonstrate skills in written communication, with special emphasis on writing about film; 4. communicate in the form of an essay using: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) logical and appropriate structure b) clear expression c) accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling d) referencing that conforms to MLA style.
Submission instructions	See “Submission instructions” for assessment task 2.

Assessment task 4: Examination	
Task description	The exam will assess students' understanding of key concepts studied during semester. It will address their capacity to apply critical ideas developed throughout the course, demonstrate the meaning-making strategies of mainstream and independent cinema, and analyse film contextually.
Task length	2 hours
Links to learning outcomes	The examination will assess learning outcomes 1 and 3a.
Assessment criteria	<p>To complete the exam you should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate skills of critical analysis relevant to screen studies. 2. identify the role of cultural and historical context in the production and reception of commercial and independent cinema; 3. locate the significance of various film movements to the greater history of film artistry and production; 4. demonstrate written communication skills, with special emphasis on writing about film.

School of English, Journalism and European Languages

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Submission of assignments

Students are required to submit a signed assignment cover sheet with every assignment. The cover sheet includes a declaration that all material submitted is your own work except where there is clear acknowledgement or reference to the work of others. Assignment cover sheets are available from the School office or the School website. **Assignments submitted without a completed, 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 should be completed within two weeks of the assignment due date.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy (not by email) via the assignment slot at the School office. If there are additional submission requirements (eg the use of Turnitin) this will be specified in your unit outline. Students are required to keep copies of all submitted assignments.

Late assignments

Undergraduate units (100, 200 and 300 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 5% of the available marks for the first day, and then 2% per working day thereafter.

Honours and postgraduate coursework units (400, 500 and 600 level)

Late submissions will be penalised as follows: 10% of the available marks per day for the first five (5) working days and 50% on the following day.

Honours and postgraduate research project units (400 and 700 level)

Honours and postgraduate research project submission due dates are treated as the equivalent of exam dates and therefore, late submissions will not be accepted.

Late work will be accepted without penalty if accompanied by a medical certificate for the relevant period or the equivalent documentation in the case of a serious non-medical reason but you must contact the unit coordinator prior to the assignment due date.

Return of marked 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. In some cases, particularly where an assignment is the final, exam equivalent piece of assessment, the marked assignment may not be returned until after final unit results have been released.

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.academicintegrity.utas.edu.au/>. 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.

Referencing

The English, French and German disciplines and the Screen Studies major use MLA Style. The Journalism, Media and Communications discipline uses the Harvard style of referencing. For more information about referencing, and brief introductory guides for each of these styles, please refer to: <http://www.utas.edu.au/ejel/referencing.html>

Marking scale

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Coursework units

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

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

Honours

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

- First Class (HF)—80-100%
- Second Class upper division (HU)—70-79%
- Second Class lower division (HL)—60-69%
- Third Class (HT)—50-59%
- Fail (HN)—0-49%

All marks are subject to moderation.

Equipment loans

Please note that some units taught in the school may require access to sound and/or video recording equipment. Although access to equipment may be provided during tutorials, access to equipment outside of tutorials is not guaranteed. Where the loan of equipment is possible students will be required to sign and agree to the terms and conditions of the loan, including the penalties for late return, as presented at the time of the loan.

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 Student Services staff as soon as possible. Please see <http://www.studentservices.utas.edu.au> for more information about the support services available to students.

IT support

MyLO: <http://www.utas.edu.au/coursesonline/>

IT help desk: <http://www.utas.edu.au/service/itdesk/student/index.html>