COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Provides a study of work by selected contemporary Canadian filmmakers working in a variety of areas: Anglophone, Francophone, multi-cultural and aboriginal fiction film traditions; documentary; and the avant garde. Also discussed are the issues surrounding the production and distribution of film in Canada today. The course is designed to work in conjunction with The Independents, a series of speakers and screenings offered by the Film Department. Required of all Film majors. Prerequisite: FA/FILM 1400 6.00 or permission of the Film Department.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helfield, Gillian</td>
<td>Sec. A / LECT / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gshelfie@yorku.ca">gshelfie@yorku.ca</a></td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

YORK UNIVERSITY  CINEMA AND MEDIA ARTS

Film 3401 3.0 F SECTION ‘A’

CANADIAN CINEMAS

Preliminary Course Syllabus*

(*PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THIS COURSE. MAKE SURE YOU READ IT CAREFULLY AND UNDERSTAND ALL REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS. HOWEVER: ONCE THE WEBSITE GOES LIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES, THIS SYLLABUS WILL NOT BE UPDATED: FOR ALL UPDATES, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHANGES STUDENTS MUST CHECK THE WEBSITE ON A DAILY BASIS.)

COURSE DIRECTOR: Gillian Helfield
OFFICE: CFT Room 217
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 1:00PM-2:00PM
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY (please email at least 24 hours in advance to Schedule)
PHONE NUMBER: (416) 736-2149
E-MAIL ghelfie@yorku.ca
Or – moodle message (through course website) Through Moodle Website only
CLASS TIME: Tuesdays 2:30PM – 6:30:PM
LOCATION: ACW 206

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to some of the major debates involved within the inter-disciplinary study of Canadian cinema. The course begins by interrogating notions of the nation and national identity, investigating these as discursive formations produced by and through distinct practices and sites, including film policy, state institutions like the National Film Board of Canada, cultural nationalism, and spectatorship. One premise we will explore: is it even possible to speak of a singular form of national cinema in Canada given the proliferation of sub-national, counter-national, regional and resistant sites of film practice?
And furthermore, how can we (for example) speak of a national cinema in English Canada where 98% of the films shown in Canadian theatres are from elsewhere—principally Hollywood and where Canadian films traditionally only attract 2 percent of market share? Do we speak of national cinema in the language of federal and provincial film policies where film is discursively conceived of as an industry, a vital source of employment, a generator of taxable income, and a producer of commodities designed for export or as a high art elite cultural formation destined for international film festivals and art cinema contexts?
Prerequisite: FA/FILM 1400 6.00 or permission of the Film Department.
Learning Objectives
As a required course for both BFA and BA students, this course provides an opportunity for practitioners, writers, curators, critics and historians alike to immerse themselves in the study of a cinema where the majority will end up working. Understanding the key debates, possessing a familiarity and insight into the work of our major auteurs and film movements, and cultural policy debates will be essential to both studies and production students as they venture into the ‘real’ world of cinematic cultures.

Lectures
In-class face-to-face lectures will take place each Tuesday, starting September 12. Lectures are from 2:30-6:30PM, in ACW 206. Though attendance will not be taken, students are expected to attend every lecture and remain until the end.

Screenings
Screenings will take place during class time, either before or after the lecture. Frequently students will discuss ‘extracts’ from class films, or other relevant films or TV programs. Most, but not all of the films and extracts being shown in class are available at the Sound and Moving Image Library, or online. Students are expected to stay for the screenings, and take part in any discussions related to the films.
Readings:

There is one required course text and two recommended texts (see below). The Gittings and Beard/White text may be purchased through the YorkU bookstore, or online, and are on 2-hour reserve at Scott Library. The Monk book is available as an e-resource, through the York U library.
Additional readings will be posted online on the Moodle Website in the relevant lectures.
Please keep checking for them, as some may be added during the term.

Required Texts: (On reserve at Scott Library)
*AVAILABLE THROUGH E-RESOURCES at YorkU Libraries online catalogue
Also available for purchase through Amazon.ca New and Used Copies

Recommended Texts (some readings will be assigned from these texts)
*AVAILABLE THROUGH E-RESOURCES at YorkU Libraries online catalogue
Also available for purchase through Amazon.ca, New & Used copies
Katherine Monk, Weird Sex and Snowshoes
*AVAILABLE THROUGH E-RESOURCES at YorkU Libraries online catalogue

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Organization of the Course
The course involves formal lectures by the Course Director, supplemented by films and film extracts pertaining to the subject matter. Lectures and screenings will be supported by readings provided in the course text and in articles posted on the course website and also by in-class discussion.
Discussion of important topics and course materials also takes place in the weekly forums, in which students are expected to take part (as part of their participation grade). Students should regularly visit the course website to remain up to date with course announcements, and also to access supplementary reading and audio-visual materials posted online.

Website and Materials
Access to the Moodle Course Website is a requirement for this course.
Although lectures will be given in person during scheduled class times, there is a website for this course, available through Moodle, which students are required to access for important updates and announcements, and through which they will communicate with the Course Director, submit their written work, participate in on-line discussions, and receive their grades.
Please note that it is the student’s responsibility to get this account set up, and to become familiarized both with Moodle and the course website. It is also the student’s responsibility to get help from Computing Services if they have a problem with the website. Technical difficulties are not considered acceptable reasons for failing to submit course work on time.
All assignments, announcements and updates will be posted through this website. Announcements & updates sent through the Moodle Forum will be sent automatically to students’ YorkU e-mails, unless they choose to ‘unsubscribe’..
However, students should not rely on receiving these forwarded e-mails: they should check the Course Announcements (through the tab on the homepage of the website) on a daily basis.

If students do not have access to Moodle or the website, they will not be able to fully participate in this course and will not be up-to-date on all information and requirements.

In order to have access to the website, students must have a valid YorkU e-mail account, and then a Moodle Account, which can be acquired through Computing Services at York. How to request/access this service:

- Online: http://itservicedesk.yorku.ca
- By Email: write to ithelp@yorku.ca
- By phone 416-736-5800

(Mon - Fri 8:30 AM - 5:50 PM)
- By visiting the Service Counter at William Small Centre - Computing Commons.

Communication

Students should endeavor to keep in touch with the course website, and to make sure that the Film Department has current contact info for them during the term, in case we need to be in touch. Students should make sure they respond to all e-mails or attempts at communication in a timely fashion.

Course Director Availability

The best way to reach me is via e-mail, through my YorkU email (listed above) or the Moodle Message Board on the course website.

I do not have voicemail on my office telephone, so telephone messages are not recommended. However if you do need to reach me by telephone, please call the Dept. of Cinema and Media Studies (416) 736-5149. Please note that I may not receive the message right away..

I am available for meetings during the office hours **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** Please note that these are not ‘open office hours’ – i.e. you must e-mail first for an appointment, as there may be others who also require consultation at the same time..

If you book a meeting, please be there on time. If you must cancel, please let me know ahead of time, or contact by e-mail to say you’re not going to make it..

Course Schedule of Lectures*:

(*N.B.: Topics, Screenings and Readings are subject to change.)

**Readings to be assigned in first week of classes)

**A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF LECTURE UNITS WILL BE POSTED ON WEBSITE**

Lecture #1: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12 : INTRO TO COURSE

What is Canadian Cinema?
Producing a ‘National Cinema’: An Overview

ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED & POSTED

Lecture #2: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19 - GUEST FILMMAKER FROM TIFF

A Canadian filmmaker (TBA) will join us and screen for us his/her latest film, premiering at TIFF this year. This date may change pending the filmmaker’s availability.

Lecture 3: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26 - Our Cultural and Cinematic Heritage:

Part 1 : In the Name of Empire
Part 2: The Documentary Tradition

Lecture 4 - TUESDAY OCTOBER 3 : Genre and Identity Politics
The State of/and Canadian Cinema in the 70s
The Loser Cycle, Road Pic & Shlock Horror

Lecture #5: TUESDAY OCTOBER 10 - Identity Politics & The Quebec Question
Representing Difference
The Colonizing Gaze & Quebec National Romance
The Quiet Revolution & Cinema Direct

Lecture 6: TUESDAY OCTOBER 17 - Women and the Nation
‘The Look’: Patriarchy & The Male Gaze
Women at the NFB: Studio D
National Cinema & Female Authorship

Lecture #7: TUESDAY OCTOBER 24: Alterity and the Nation
Master Identities and Discourses of Power
Queer Looks, Trans-gender & Transgression: ‘The Oppositional Gaze of the Other’

Lecture #8: TUESDAY OCTOBER 31 – Ethnicity, Ethnography & Cultural Colonialism
First Nations: Films By and About Aboriginals

Lecture #9: TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7 - November 8 - Ethnicity, Ethnography & Cultural Colonialism cont’d
The Age of Diaspora: Ethnicity & Cultural Colonialism
‘New Canadian’ Cinema: Transnational & Hybrid Identities

Lecture 10 – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14 - Popular Cinema and the Tax Shelter Film
Tax Shelters & film Policy
Canuxploitation Films

Lecture 11 – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21 – Animation and New Media
‘Technology and Nationalism: Animation and the Canadian imaginary
The New Media

Lecture #12: - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 – Art House Cinema
Co-Productions & ‘International’ Cinema
‘New’ Canadian Cinema: Indie Canuck & Art House Cinema

GRADED ASSESSMENT

General Assignment Guidelines:
Submission of Assignments

Assignments will be submitted online through the Moodle website on the specified due date, unless otherwise indicated. A submission tab will be provided one or two days before the due-date. Late paper will be accepted, but will be penalized at 5 marks per day (half a grade-mark) including weekends, for a maximum of 25 marks per week. Papers will not be accepted more than one week late.

Ensure that you keep hard copies of all submitted work. In case of a lost essay (whether your fault or the instructor’s) YOU are responsible for the replacement.

E-mailed and faxed essays are not accepted unless arranged beforehand with the Course Director.

Online Discussions

There are a total of 12 Discussion Forums which are accessible through a tab display that will appear after the lecture, either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning of each week. The Forums will remain open until the following Monday (before the next Tuesday lecture) at 11:55PM. Students must submit their posts and replies before the deadline.

In each of the Forums, students are expected to post responses to a topic provided by the Course Director (or about a topic of their own choosing), and are also expected to reply more than once to their classmates’ posts. The Discussion Forum topics will be based on the lectures and screenings (and occasional reading) each week.

There is no further opportunity to post, or to make up for missed posts once the window has closed, as the discussions are intended to be ‘live’ conversations between students and course director, that take place over the course of a few days. These forums count toward students’ participation marks in the course. If students are not participating in the discussion while it is ‘live’, then they cannot earn participation marks for that forum. There are no exceptions.

Do not miss the window. Students will have 5-6 days, 24/7 to post comments and replies, which is plenty of time! And as the website can be accessed anywhere with WiFi and internet, students are able to take part in the discussion even if they are not at home, or do not have their laptops or computers. The Discussion Forums can make a big difference in your final mark – the difference between a good grade or poor grade, or between passing and failing the course.

Retrieval of Assignments:

Papers will be graded online on the Moodle website: students will be given instructions how to retrieve your assignments with grades and feedback.

Students will receive grades for their Discussion Forums in the forum itself: these grades will appear a week following the closing of each forum.

Deferrals

If students need to defer submission of assignments to a later date, they must petition for said deferral within the allotted time-frame.

Forms may be obtained from the Registrar’s office which must be submitted to the Film Department for the instructor’s permission and signature.

Please note that deferral forms submitted after the assignment due-date WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Accommodations

If students require Accommodations, they must get an Accommodations letter beforehand (form the Accommodations Office or Learning and Disabilities Services at York) and submit it to the course director within the first week of classes.
Accommodations will not be granted for Discussion posts which take place ‘live’ (and for which extra time is not required).

If you have trouble taking notes in class, you can request a note-taker – please see information below or ask your fellow classmates for assistance.

Unless other arrangements are made between the student and the professor, course work must be submitted by the posted deadline.

**Method of Evaluation:**

*Detailed information about the assignments, including due-dates, instructions and guidelines, and submission information will be provided in Assignment sheets, posted on the website. This information also will be discussed in class in the first week of the course.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro Exercise</td>
<td>Due in September</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
<td>Due in October</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
<td>Due in November</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Discussion (Participation)</td>
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<td>35%</td>
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**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Attendance and Class Participation**

Students are responsible for completing all readings and arriving in class prepared with questions and commentary for in class discussion.

Students are expected to attend all lectures and screenings (including screenings of films you may have already seen.) Copies of most films (but not all) are be available in SMIL in Scott Library, but this is an additional study aid, and not a substitute for class screenings.

Students are expected to take notes during film screenings, and lectures. Please respect your fellow students’ opportunity to learn in class by remaining quiet during lectures and screenings.

No electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, MP3s, IPODS or LAPTOPS) are permitted during screenings, lectures and test.

Laptops will be permitted only during lectures (but not screenings).

Attendance counts toward your total participation grade. An attendance sheet will be circulated during the first 10 minutes of class: if you miss the sign-in you will not receive credit for attendance that day. You will also not receive credit for missed classes.

No electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, MP3s, IPODS) are permitted during screenings, lectures and test.

Laptops will be permitted only during lectures (but not screenings).

Students who do not respect these rules will be asked to leave the classroom.

Discussion Posts form a good portion of your participation grade. You should be posting regularly: it can make a big difference in your final mark, as much as a whole letter grade.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic Dishonesty and plagiarism are serious academic offenses. Any acts of plagiarism will result in an automatic grade of ‘0’ on the assignment, and potentially a failing mark in the course. You also will be prosecuted to the fullest extent that university regulations allow. **DON'T DO IT – IT ISN'T WORTH IT.**

**Make sure you understand what ‘plagiarism’ is:** please read the Faculty of Fine Arts Policy on Academic Honesty which can be found in the faculty of Fine Arts Student Handbook. Also consult the York website on plagiarism:

http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students.htm.

**Language, Learning Difficulties and Disabilities:**
If you have difficulties with the English language or if you have a learning, physical or sensory disability, please speak to the lecturer and your tutorial leader so that we can adapt.

Difficulties with English? Contact YUELI (York University English Language Institute) 287 Winters college, (416) 736-5353.

Physical or Sensory disabilities? Contact OPD (Office for Persons with Disabilities) 109 Central Square, (416) 736-5140.

Learning Difficulties? Contact CDC (Counselling and Development Centre) 145 Behavioural Sciences Building (416) 736-5297.

**Religious Observance Accommodation**

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course Director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf. Further information on religious observance is available at https://w2prod.sis.yorku.ca/Apps/WebObjects/cdm.woa/wa/regobs.

**Ethics Review Process**

York students are subject to the York University *Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants*. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants (e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately. Also, visit: http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=94 for more information.

*Students are encouraged to retain a hard copy of their work for purposes of petitions, or questions of academic dishonesty.*

York University’s Code of Student Conduct is available online at: http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=82

E-Mail Policy. The easiest way to reach me is by email through the course website. If you regularly use a non-York email, make sure you use the email forwarding service: http://www.cns.yorku.ca/computing/email/forwarding.html

**TO SEE IMPORTANT SESSIONAL AND ENROLMENT/DROP DATES FOR THE TERM:**
Please go to the YorkU website, under ‘students’, and ‘important dates’.
Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

Moodle @ York University