EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

FA / FILM 1701 3.0 SECTION M
HOLLYWOOD: OLD AND NEW
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

An introductory course that provides Web-based delivery of lectures, discussion groups and screenings. Key concepts in critical film analysis will be introduced and important themes in American film history will be examined.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

Name          Section / Format / Term          Contact Email          Contact Phone
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Helfield, Gillian  Sec. M / ONLN / W          ghelfie@yorku.ca          

SPECIAL FEATURES

Film 1701, Hollywood Old and New is a fully online course, that will discuss 12 films, all of which which are accessible online, along with relevant readings.

The course compares the central narratives, genres, aesthetics, themes, discourses and ideologies of classical and contemporary Hollywood cinema, produced over 90 years, from the early 1930s until 2019.

The genres to be examined include, Westerns, Populist-Agrarian Cinema, Musicals, Crime Films, Film Noir and Science Fiction.

Discourses to be explored through films, lectures, readings, assignments and class discussions, include race, identity, gender, sexuality, war, terrorism, nationalism, post-coloniality, globalization, the media, and various social problems and political issues affecting American society and culture throughout the past century.

TOPICS AND CONCEPTS

Course Objectives

The object of the course is to provide students with an understanding of basic film history, film theories (theories of film narrative, auteur theory, psychoanalytic film theory, etc.), film language and genre, as well as the historical, social and political issues relevant to both Hollywood and contemporary world cinema.
By the end of the course, and through their participation in discussion forums, and finalization of their film journals, students should be able to answer the following ‘big question’:

“Would you say that, in the past 90 years, Hollywood Cinema has significantly evolved, significantly, or has remained consistent, in the films’ predominant narratives, genres, structural conflicts and ideologies, aesthetic approaches, its engagement with prevailing social and political issues?” (Respond with a convincing argument, and supporting examples, based on your learning throughout the course.)

LIST OF LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EXAMPLES OF

Learner Outcomes

By the end of the term, students will have learned about Hollywood cinema from the 1930s to the present day. They also will have learned about key concepts in film studies, and about important film theories, both contemporary and classical. They will have learned the basics of film analysis, and film criticism, and how to apply these skills in theoretical discussions with their tutorial leaders and classmates. They also will be able to answer the ‘big question’ above.

ADDITIONAL/ASSOCIATED FEES:

There are no field trips, special lab sessions, or special tutorials for this course.
There are no associated fees.

SECTION 1: IS THIS THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU?

******PLEASE READ THE SYLLABUS CAREFULLY AND ASSESS WHETHER THIS IS THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU******

• This course is completely online, with no face-to-face contact with any of the course personnel. All lectures, discussions, and ‘office hours’ take place on line. All communication with the tutorial leaders and course director, and with your fellow students, takes place online through the website. (Read Section II below on How this Course Works, to learn more).
• The technology is easy to pick up, especially if you are used to Moodle or other learning platforms, or if you are comfortable ‘online’. There is also lots of technical support. But we cannot help you with problems with your own equipment, or your internet connection or set-up at home (or wherever you are accessing the course from).
• You must have access to a computer with up-to-dates software and browsers that will enable you view and open all the links to the course materials and assessments, otherwise you will not be able to participate or keep up with the course.
• This course moves at a fairly rapid pace, and covers a lot of material each week (a 45-60 minute lecture, a film, reading and extracts, a discussion forum, and every other week, a journal entry. Students must be willing and able to keep up the pace to get through the material and not fall behind.
As well deadlines are firm, and some of the assignments (e.g. Discussion Forums) are done ‘live’ within a particular window, as part of your participation mark. As such they cannot be ‘made up’ later, or deferred, nor may students have extensions on these assignments.

SECTION 2: HOW THIS COURSE WORKS:

This course is taught using Moodle, which is a web-based course management program that provides communication and tools for online teaching and learning.

Students must be registered for Moodle in order to find a link to this course on York’s Moodle server. In order to register, contact Computing Services at York, to set up a Passport York account and, if you do not already have one, a York e-mail account.

You also must have a YorkU library card or Passport U account in order to access online readings (e-resources). If you have successfully registered for this course, and have acquired both a York e-mail and a Moodle account, you will be able to access the course website starting the first day of classes in January 2018, by logging on to http://moodle.yorku.ca. (Please note there is no ‘www’ in this URL).

TUTORIAL GROUPS

This course is completely dependent upon tutorial groups. Upon registration, students will be placed into individual tutorial groups, monitored by tutorial leaders, whose names and group numbers are posted on the website, in the right side-bar.

All communication with tutorial leaders will take place in these tutorial groups. Tutorial leaders will post messages and updates for students in the Tutorial Meeting Places on the website. Students will have automatic access to their individual tutorial meeting places, once the website is ‘live’ at the start of the term. Students will be able to communicate with their tutorial leaders through the tutorial meeting places, which are public, or, through ‘Moodle Message’, which is private.

All assignments will be submitted online, and graded by the TAS, in these individual tutorial groups.

COMMUNICATION

There are two ways in which students can communicate with course personnel (TAs and Course Director).

- Through Moodle Message (TAS and Course Director) – PRIVATE
- Through the Tutorial Meeting Places (TAS) – PUBLIC

Students are requested NOT to contact course personnel through their YorkU email addresses, as these can become swamped and overloaded very quickly. It also may lead to delays in our ability to receive your message and respond to it in a timely fashion.
To Access Moodle Message:

- Log on to Moodle, and find Film 1701 in your list of courses.
- When the course appears – go up to the top red banner, over to the right, and click on the first tab “New Look” – the bar will turn green.
- Then click on the ‘icon message’ (it looks like an envelope)
- You will see a small window appear that says ‘messages at the top’
- To compose a message, click on the pen and paper icon in the upper right hand corner
- You will be taken to a new window. To find someone in the course (i.e. your tutorial leader or course director, write their name in the letter box that appears). Make sure you are spelling the name correctly, or the search option will not work properly for you.

ACCESS TO MATERIALS

You have the possibility of accessing any of the course materials (lectures, readings, films and supplementary materials) as often as you wish once they are made available on the Monday of each week. Once they are posted they will remain visible. However they will not be posted earlier as the course maintains a weekly structure.

The only exceptions are timed assignments like the Discussion Forums, which open and close within a particular window (noted on the website and in the assignment descriptions). The windows open and close on specific dates, and once they close, they do not re-open.

- Also, because this is an online course, you can access the materials wherever there is internet. There is no reason to miss lectures, films, readings or assignments– even if you are away at any point during the term, and even if you have issues with your internet/power at home.

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Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.
Moodle @ York University