



# CMST 14400 5 - Film and the Moving Image - Instructor(s): Aurore Spiers

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Winter 2024**

Number Enrolled: **18**

Number of Responses: **12**

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## Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

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Creation Date: **Thursday, March 28, 2024**

## What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
Unpacking what /is/ a moving image; understanding how different aspects of film (framing, sound, motion, etc.) contribute to cinema; describing how our relationship to screens have evolved
A brief history of cinema, and all the complexities that go behind film (movement, sound, shot composition, physicality, etc..)
I liked seeing how powerful the techniques used in the moving image were and how they contributed to the audience's experience.
Different ways of understanding films through different interpretative lenses.
Learned how to view films in a variety of frameworks such as space and framing, sound, editing and more.
In this course, I learned how to analyze film beyond just the aspects of plot and narrative. We learned a lot about the technical aspects of film and what goes into making movies as well as the people who work behind the scenes in filmmaking.
Methods of analyzing film through various lenses— framing, sound, media objects, editing & montage, screens, photography, etc.
course was divided into week-long units focusing on specific aspects of film/moving images such as sound, space/frame, movement, editing, etc.
The course covered many different aspects of film from movement, editing, sound, space, frame, etc. Everything was completely new to me as I had never looked at film from an analytic perspective before.

## Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed to your learning.

Comments
The movie screenings, readings, and in-class lectures/discussions all work together to reinforce the concepts
Lectures were interesting and went over readings (most that I didn't do) and screenings. Honestly, screenings weren't too valuable as I could find a lot of them online, but still an interesting experience, especially watching a film in 3D.
The screenings were awesome and really helped the course.
The structure of the course was great, I appreciated the weekly themes which allowed us to dive into one interpretative aspect with some specificity rather than trying to take on whole films in their entirety. I also thought the readings chosen to go together with each of the themes were quite effective and in guiding our individual interpretations.
Film screenings were probably the main part of the course that helped us gain experience in viewing films in different ways. Class discussions were where we could consolidate these ideas but we sometimes hit or miss.
The class lectures were a good way to talk about the content of the readings and hear how other people interpreted certain aspects of the weekly screenings. I think the weekly screenings were the most practical way to understand the readings and have an example of the concepts we were talking about that week.
Discussions in-class and the assigned discussion posts were the main avenues for learning alongside Professor Spiers' outstanding lecturing and were very helpful for synthesizing ideas about difficult theoretical texts.
class format was primarily discussions and readings with screenings once a week. the discussions were fine but the prof could have made the better by asking fewer surface level questions and talking more about the films we watched in the screenings vs the readings/week long units.
Class is a seminar based course. Every class you are assigned a reading which covers a different aspect of film. Class centers around discussion of these topics and analyzing their presence in certain films. Every week you will have a ~ 2 hour viewing which you view in context of the aspect of film you discussed that week.

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.83	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	58.33%	16.67%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	4.17	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	8.33%	66.67%	25.00%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	4.00	4.00	0.00%	8.33%	16.67%	41.67%	33.33%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.92	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	33.33%	41.67%	25.00%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.80	3.50	0.00%	10.00%	40.00%	10.00%	40.00%
My work was evaluated fairly.	4.18	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	18.18%	45.45%	36.36%
I felt respected in this class.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	4.33	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
We had weekly discussion posts on the film screening of that week but (as of finals week) they haven't been graded or given feedback. The final assignment is a 10–15 minute video essay, which seems a bit easy.
The weekly screenings were always fun and never longer than two hours, and if they were missed they are very easy to make up individually
This class is so interesting and definitely challenged me in my film analysis skills!
Class is very chill and cool. If you have any interest in learning about film or you just need to fulfill an art requirement this class is a great choice.

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	0.00%	100.00%
Anyone interested in the topic	0.00%	100.00%

## Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Dr. Spiers always made slide decks with prepared film snippet examples that demonstrated the concepts we were focusing on and also pulled out the important quotes from the readings.
Aurore was chill and made the class interesting and covered a lot of the materials in an easy to digest manner. I especially liked how she showed screening clips in class.
Her lectures and slides were great!
Professor Spiers was an excellent guide in facilitating our class discussions, which were the most important part of the class. She asked questions that would tie our readings to the films we had seen for the weekly screenings and I felt like I got a lot out of each class.
Aurore was very friendly and worked to create a collaborative discussion environment.
I think watching short example videos in class or clips from movies was a great way to keep engaging discussions going. Watching the clips that weren't from the weekly screenings was good practice to try to find how the content within the readings can show up in almost any film. Professor Spiers also did a really good job of making the classroom a comfortable place for everyone to speak. I felt like I became more comfortable talking in class as the course progressed and this allowed me to gain a better understanding of the content.
Facilitating the lectures and when the class was struggling, asking thought-provoking questions or rerouting the class in a way that made the topic easier to approach.
probably discussions and readings
Lectures are helpful in breaking down the more difficult texts and giving examples from movies and videos of the techniques discussed. Also a great way to hear from your peers and your instructor.

## What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
If we could implement the readings more into discussion, then because the readings were so interesting, the classes might benefit.
As always, it is very challenging to fit an appropriate amount of coursework and topics in only 9 weeks, and discussions centralized around interpretation are very open-ended and it is difficult to set a time limit on them because people will always have more to say. I think if we had a bit less reading during certain weeks with longer films that had more opportunity for discussion, we would have more time in class to focus on the films.
While the discussions were often fruitful, sometimes we would be discussing very obvious things like film tapes degrading over time or basic interpretations of text from our readings that the instructor could just state instead of asking us to discuss. This would give us more time to discuss topics that are up for more interpretation and would be more fruitful for our learning rather than feeling patronized.
I think it may be more beneficial if there was a stricter schedule for discussions. Sometimes our conversations from the week before would bleed into the next week's class and we would not have enough time to talk about other things. Overall, I thought the content of the discussions was great though.
Maybe having more structure on every day of lecture? Some days were very regimented and then others were kind of just chill discussion days, which would frequently lead to the class getting behind on material. That's the only tiny complaint I have
changing the format of discussions to make them less surface level and more specific to the movies we watched
Nothing really. Class works well as constructed.

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.64	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.50	4.50	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	45.45%	9.09%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	4.45	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	4.27	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	54.55%	36.36%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	4.55	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	45.45%	54.55%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.67	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	54.55%	18.18%
Motivated you to think independently.	4.36	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	45.45%	45.45%	0.00%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	4.73	5.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	0.00%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	4.45	4.00	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	54.55%	45.45%	0.00%

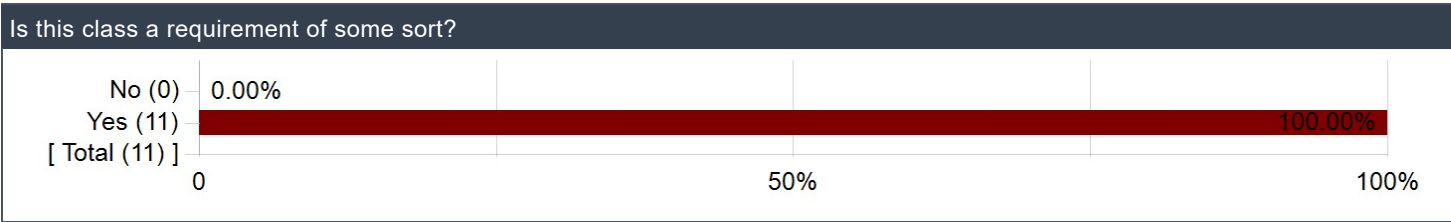
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Field Trips	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Library Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Review Sessions	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Writing Seminars	N/A	N/A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%

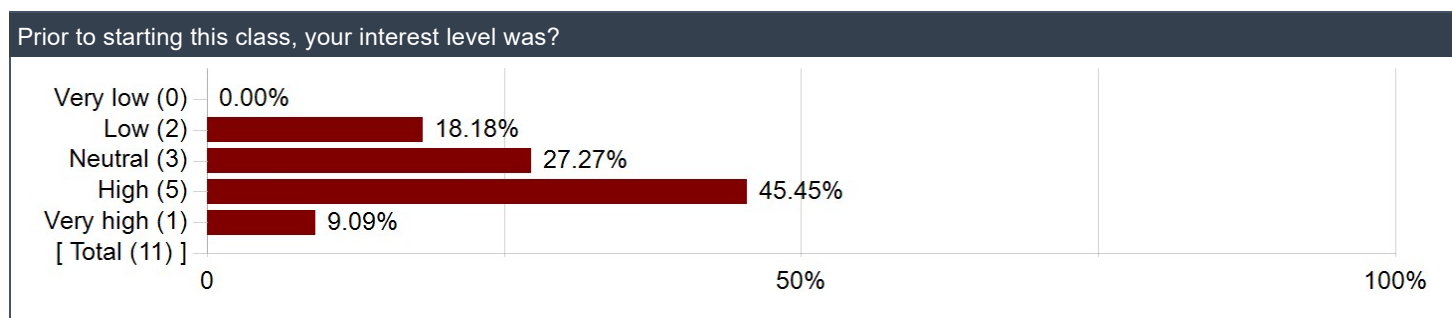
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
Movie Screenings
Film screenings were interesting but Aurore was one of the only professors that made it mandatory which was a bit annoying, but still enjoyable.
Film Screenings
Film screenings were generally fun but some films were painful to watch and put me to sleep.
Weekly film screenings
film screenings
Viewing. Every week you have a viewing. Critical to complete discussion posts and helpful for learning how to look at film analytically.

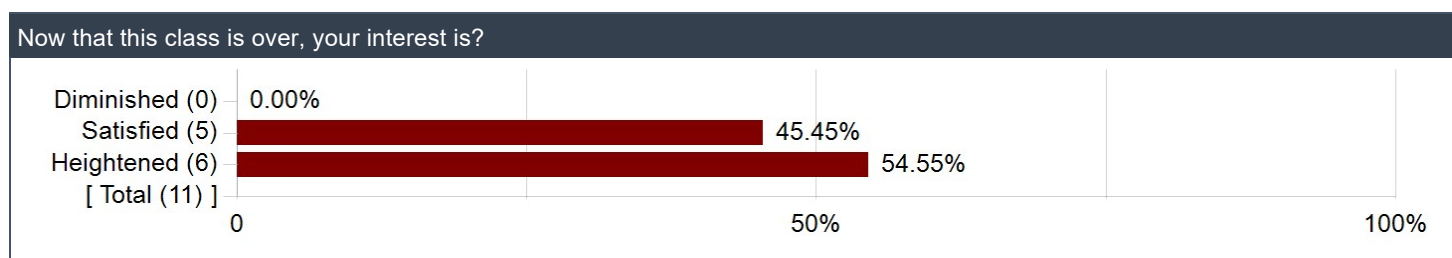
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



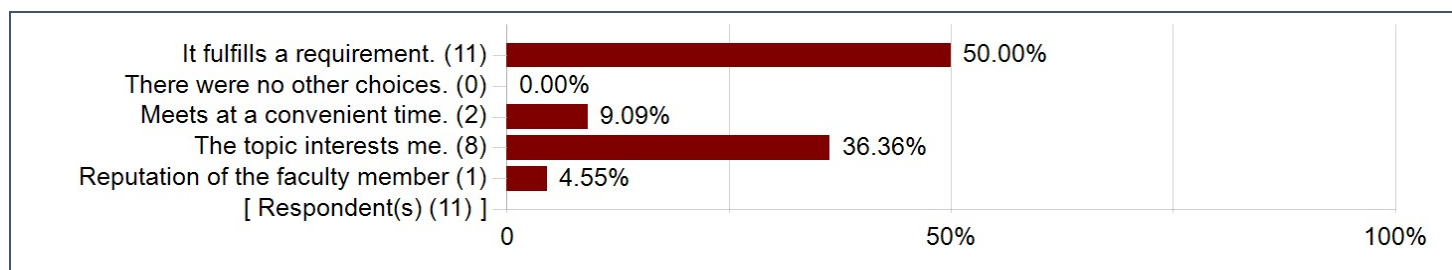
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



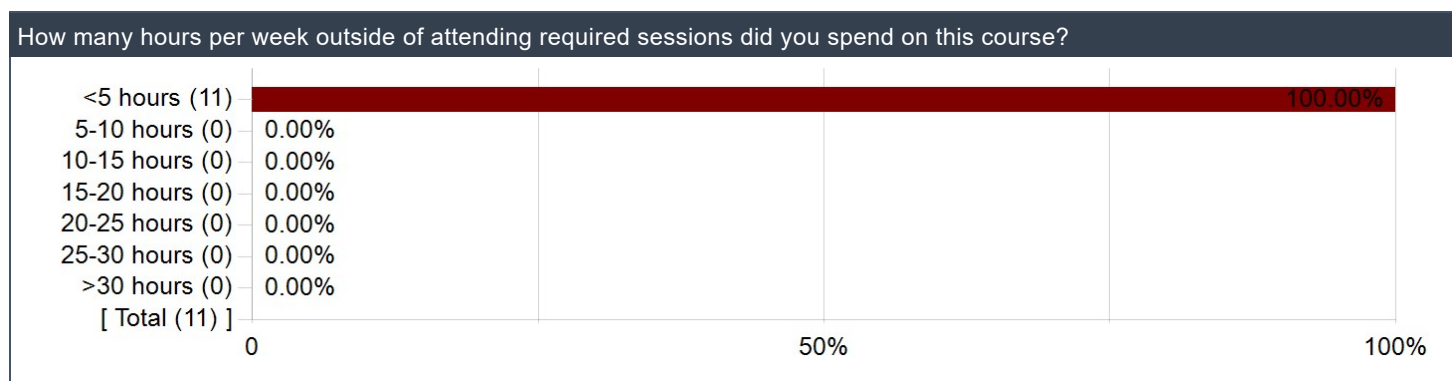
## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



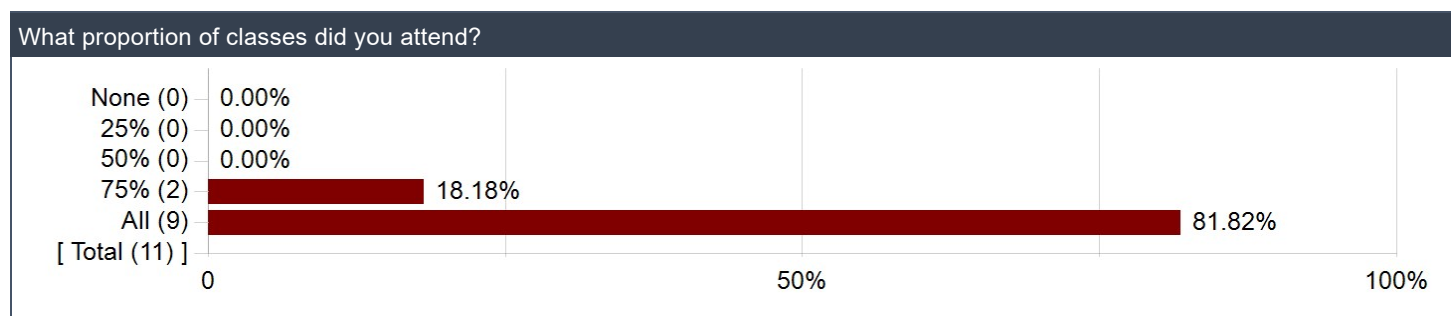
## Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



## How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



## What proportion of classes did you attend?



## Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
FMI is very accessible, no matter your previous experience with media studies
I took Media Aesthetics for my HUM so some things covered were a review, but other than that, I have no experience and the class was easy to digest. I recommend.
Very easy
Not very difficult, I had no prior experience and I felt like I got a lot out of it, and I never felt like I had gaps in my knowledge that prevented me from understanding what we discussed in class.
I had no experience analyzing film before this class and it did not affect my ability to understand the concepts that we were expected to learn about. I would recommend this class to people even if they do not have any experience with this type of content or subject.
Very manageable workload from a stressed stem major!
Very easy (bizecon major speaking)
I had relatively no background in critical film analysis and I did perfectly fine. A background would likely benefit but it is possible to succeed coming in as a blank slate.