



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2061 Contemporary Approaches to Cinema - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2061

Year : 2024

Term : Term 1

Teaching Period : T1

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of the Arts and Media

Delivery Mode : Multimodal

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces students to some of the key debates in contemporary film theory from the 1970s to the present. It enables students to view and study a variety of filmmaking practices - including political cinemas, cult film, experimental film and video, as well as mainstream

cinemas - and looks at some of the diverse ways that film has been understood and debated by both filmmakers and film theorists. Provides a foundation for upper level study in Film Studies.

Course Aims

To develop your understanding of the disciplinary field of film theory and film studies through close analysis of some of the key debates in contemporary film theory. These include understandings of film as a *medium* (ontological and technological questions); understandings of film as a *cultural form* (socio-historical questions about the centrality of narrative, particular modes of looking or spectatorship); and understandings of cinema as a *cultural institution* (historical and economic analyses of the place of cinema in contemporary everyday life).

To develop an understanding of key concepts in film theory that are important to advanced studies in the discipline (these include narration; political modernism; aesthetics; technology; spectatorship).

To increase your knowledge of a wide range of filmmaking practices, and gain an understanding of the differences between these practices.

To develop your skills in critical analysis of theoretical texts

To develop basic skills in project design and structuring research.

Relationship to Other Courses

Provides a foundation for upper level study in Film Studies.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CL01 : Test and apply some of the key concepts and debates in the discipline to various film and media texts and contexts.
CL02 : Demonstrate capacity for collaborative project design and research.
CL03 : Recognise the technical, aesthetic, and industrial relations between cinema and related media.
CL04 : Formulate and communicate an effective film studies argument.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CL01 : Test and apply some of the key concepts and debates in the discipline to various film and media texts and contexts.	• Report • Research Essay
CL02 : Demonstrate capacity for collaborative project design and research.	• Report
CL03 : Recognise the technical, aesthetic, and industrial relations between cinema and related media.	• Research Essay
CL04 : Formulate and communicate an effective film studies argument.	• Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

See previous entry.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Report	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 14/03/2024 11:59 PM
Research Essay	60%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 24/04/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Report

Assessment Overview

Individual

1000 words plus supporting visual material.

Undertaken as a result of group learning activities and engagement with online sources.

Submitted as individual submissions consisting of written work and images for online gallery (clips/screen grabs/GIFs and other research materials).

Feedback via LMS

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Test and apply some of the key concepts and debates in the discipline to various film and media texts and contexts.
- CL02 : Demonstrate capacity for collaborative project design and research.

Assessment Length

1000 words

Submission notes

written submission via Turnitin

Assessment information

See Moodle for detailed information about this assessment task.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

Individual

2300 words

Feedback via LMS

This is the final assessment

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Test and apply some of the key concepts and debates in the discipline to various film and media texts and contexts.
- CL03 : Recognise the technical, aesthetic, and industrial relations between cinema and related media.
- CL04 : Formulate and communicate an effective film studies argument.

Assessment Length

2300 words

Submission notes

Please see course moodle

Assessment information

Please see Moodle for further information about this assessment

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Full details about each assessment task, including topics/questions, resources, FAQs and marking criteria are provided on the course Moodle and are discussed in class.

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Students need to make a good attempt on both assessments (Assessment 1 and Assessment 2) and receive a mark of 50/100 or more.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 12 February - 18 February	Topic	Introduction: Cinema and Film Theory in the Digital Era See Moodle for further information.
Week 2 : 19 February - 25 February	Topic	Film as Medium: Classical Film Theory Up-Close See Moodle for further information.
Week 3 : 26 February - 3 March	Topic	Film and Spectatorship Theory: The Gaze and Point of View See Moodle for further information
Week 4 : 4 March - 10 March	Topic	Film and Time: 'Delayed cinema': Motion, Stillness and 'Re-timing' Cinema See Moodle for further information [Note: This weeks lecture will be pre-recorded]
Week 5 : 11 March - 17 March	Lecture	Film and the Archive: Uses of Archival and Appropriated Audiovisual Media in Contemporary Film See Moodle for further information
	Assessment	Assessment 1 Report due this week
Week 6 : 18 March - 24 March	Homework	Review assessment task and organise your research plan
Week 7 : 25 March - 31 March	Topic	Remakes and Reenactments: Intermediality and the 'Afterlives' of Cinema See Moodle for further information.
Week 8 : 1 April - 7 April	Topic	Cinema and the Senses 1: 3D, Haptic and Tactile Cinema See Moodle for further information [Note: This weeks lecture will be pre-recorded because of the public holiday and there will be no in-person screening]
Week 9 : 8 April - 14 April	Topic	Cinema and the Senses 2: Acoustics and Space: Cinema in an Expanded Field See Moodle for further information
Week 10 : 15 April - 21 April	Lecture	Cinema at the Margins: Cult Cinema and the 'Theatrical Experience' See Moodle for further information
Week 11 : 22 April - 28 April	Assessment	Assessment 2 Research Task due this week

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

0 Week Reading

Please take some time to familiarise yourself with aspects of the course before we meet formally in Week 1.

If new to Film Studies or if you have not studied Film Studies recently I recommend looking at the following reference before beginning the course.

Timothy Corrigan and Patricia White, ["Reading about Film: Critical Methods and Theories,"](#) in *The Film Experience an Introduction* 3rd. ed. (Basingstoke and Boston: Palgrave, 2012).

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Essential reading:

The set weekly readings for this course are available through Leganto via Moodle – please make sure you bring electronic or hard copies of the relevant readings to class each week so that they can be properly discussed and debated.

Online course resource: ARTS2061 is on Moodle—please consult it regularly for important information about the course.

Each week's topic has its own section in Moodle. In these sections you will find:

- An introduction to the topic being examined;
- Suggested further reading
- Links to relevant websites
- Access to lecture recordings
- Tutorial preparation information

Recommended Resources

Recommended background reading:

- Pam Cook (ed) *The Cinema Book* (London: BFI, 2007, 3rd edition). This is an excellent reference book for anyone doing a Film Studies major. It provides useful information on different theoretical approaches to film and cinema studies, different cinemas and genres, and different periods of film history. Copies available in the library.
- Glyn Davis, Kay Dickinson, Lisa Patti, and Amy Villarejo, *Film Studies: A Global Introduction* (New York and London: Routledge, 2015). A useful resource both for those new to Film Studies and for those who are immersed in the field. Strongly recommended – ebook available through the library, link on Moodle

Important texts for this course:

- Thomas Elsaesser and Malte Hagener, *Film Theory: An Introduction Through the Senses* (New York, Routledge, 2010). E- book available through the library, link on Moodle
- Laura Mulvey, *Death 24x a Second* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006). E- book available through the library, link on Moodle
- D.N. Rodowick *The Virtual Life of Film* (London and Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 2007). E- book available through the library, link on Moodle

See Leganto and Moodle for other recommended background reading and books to check

throughout the course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Course materials and course structure (including the readings, screenings, ordering of topics and topics, and the forms of assessment) are regularly revised based on student feedback as well as new directions and new publications in the field. For this reason, your thoughts on the course are particularly useful and valuable and we will be asking you to reflect on your learning in the course during the session.

Contemporary Approaches to Cinema has been revised following feedback collected from students in previous years (both through the CATEI and myExperience student feedback and through other feedback). Previous students in the course have provided positive feedback about both the breadth of film and other screen-based material examined in the course and about the debates that were explored, and this feedback has informed this version of the course. I encourage you to give feedback on the course, not only through the formal feedback process but also in class discussions during the semester.

Please note, we will be having mandatory on campus screenings most weeks this term

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Luke Robinson				By appointment	No	No
Discipline coordinator	Michelle Langford					Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified

causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may

apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

Location: Room 312, Level 3 Robert Webster Building

Opening Hours: Monday -Friday, 9am - 5 pm

Email: sam@unsw.edu.au

Phone: +612 9385 4856

web: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/arts-media>