UNSW Course Outline

SCIF1004 Science and the Cinema - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : SCIF1004
Year : 2024
Term : Summer
Teaching Period : U1
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Science
Academic Unit : School of Chemistry
Delivery Mode : Online
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

Can you imagine Dennis Quaid, Uma Thurman, Sam Neill or Kate Winslet as scientists? Well, Hollywood has, in a series of movies which use real scientific concepts as an integral part of the plot. Often the script writers stretch these concepts beyond the realms of reality to make the

movies even more exciting.

In this general education elective that is delivered completely asynchronously via pre-recorded material, you will view a series of movies which deal with a range of scientific issues with accompanying lectures to help you understand the concepts.

Movies you will watch include Gattaca (starring Ethan Hawke, Jude Law and Uma Thurman), Jurassic Park (Sam Neill, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern), The Day After Tomorrow (Dennis Quaid, Jake Gyllenhaal and Emmy Rossum) and more. So enroll, see some movies and you might learn enough science to create your own genetically modified organism, alternative source of energy, deep space exploration vehicle or help save the world from a cataclysmic disaster.

This course is delivered purely online! There is no prior knowledge required, anyone can take this course no matter their scientific background.

Course Aims

The objectives of the course are for students to learn some introductory level science and to think about how science is portrayed to the general public by the movie industry. The sorts of questions we hope that we manage to consider are things like, “Is science portrayed well and accurately?” “Does it matter if the science is distorted if it helps the plot of a movie?” We also hope that you learn a little about DNA analysis, genetically modified organisms, climate change, space exploration and viruses. Most of all we hope that the course is not only a good learning experience but that you enjoy it too.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Recognize and describe the scientific content that is contained in a film and how a narrative (a plot/plot device) is constructed around this.
CLO2 : Critically analyze and discuss the suitability of the scientific content/theories in a film in terms of how they are used to create a narrative (a plot/plot device).
CLO3 : Create an original piece of work that applies the knowledge on Science and Cinema acquired from the course.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Recognize and describe the scientific content that is contained in a film and how a narrative (a plot/plot device) is constructed around this.	• Quizzes • Discussion Piece
CLO2 : Critically analyze and discuss the suitability of the scientific content/theories in a film in terms of how they are used to create a narrative (a plot/plot device).	• Discussion Piece
CLO3 : Create an original piece of work that applies the knowledge on Science and Cinema acquired from the course.	• Free-Form Piece

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Quizzes Assessment Format: Individual	10%	Due Date: See Moodle
Free-Form Piece Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Due Date: See Moodle
Discussion Piece Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Due Date: See Moodle

Assessment Details

Quizzes

Assessment Overview

You will complete a series of 5 quizzes (one per movie and/or lecture). The quizzes will be taken online once you have viewed the lecture/movie. Each quiz has 15 multiple choice questions and each quiz contributes 2% to the total course mark.

The quizzes are spread equally throughout the term.

These questions are linked to both the movies and the lecture content. There is no time limit, but there are due dates. Each quiz can only be taken once.

You will be able to review your marked quiz immediately after submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognize and describe the scientific content that is contained in a film and how a narrative (a plot/plot device) is constructed around this.

Free-Form Piece

Assessment Overview

You will create a Free-Form piece that showcases your creativity and incorporates what we have covered in the course. You will submit a “body of work” that comes under the general headline of “Science and the Cinema”. There is a list of suggested projects if you cannot think of your own, and there are multiple exemplars provided. The coordinator will discuss individual ideas and projects with you if you wish.

All work must contain supporting information and references so that we can accurately assess your work.

The assignment is typically due at the end of week 9.All work must be submitted via the online submission system and is assessed against a rubric that you will have access to beforehand.

Feedback will be provided via a marked rubric with additional comments provided.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Create an original piece of work that applies the knowledge on Science and Cinema acquired from the course.

Discussion Piece

Assessment Overview

You will write a discussion piece (min. 900 words, max. 1100 words) on how a science/scientific concept has been portrayed in film. You may use films from the course or others of your choosing.

This assessment is a follow on from the lectures and movies that you have watched. You have the opportunity to showcase your understanding of what has been taught and discuss whatever scientific topic or scientific movie interests you.

There is a pre-approved list of extension movies and ideas on how you might form your discussion. There are also multiple exemplary pieces of work provided. The coordinator will be available to discuss your ideas if you wish.

This assignment is typically due before the end of week 5. The assignment is graded using a rubric that you have access to before submission. Feedback will be provided via the online submission system, including a marked rubric along with additional comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Recognize and describe the scientific content that is contained in a film and how a narrative (a plot/plot device) is constructed around this.
- CLO2 : Critically analyze and discuss the suitability of the scientific content/theories in a film in terms of how they are used to create a narrative (a plot/plot device).

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 1 January - 7 January	Online Activity	Lecture content released
Week 2 : 8 January - 14 January	Assessment	Discussion piece
Week 4 : 22 January - 28 January	Assessment	Free-form piece
Week 5 : 29 January - 4 February	Assessment	Quiz deadlines

Attendance Requirements

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

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Scott Sulway				By appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.
Further information about referencing styles can be located at https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage. At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.
Further information about academic integrity, plagiarism and the use of AI in assessments can

be located at:

- The Current Students site,
- The ELISE training site, and
- The Use of AI for assessments site.

The Student Conduct and Integrity Unit provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Penalty for Late Submissions

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

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

Any variations to the above will be explicitly stated in the Course Outline for a given course or assessment task.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Special Consideration

If circumstances prevent you from attending/completing an assessment task, you must officially apply for special consideration, usually within 3 days of the sitting date/due date. You can apply by logging onto myUNSW and following the link in the My Student Profile Tab. Medical documentation or other documentation explaining your absence must be submitted with your application. Once your application has been assessed, you will be contacted via your student email address to be advised of the official outcome and any actions that need to be taken from there. For more information about special consideration, please visit: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination

or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

Faculty-specific Information

Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway
- Student Support
- Academic Skills and Support
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety
- Equitable Learning Services
- UNSW IT Service Centre
- Science EDI Student Initiatives, Offerings and Guidelines

School Contact Information

Level 1, Dalton Building (F12)

W: www.chemistry.unsw.edu.au

Also see: ***Contacts and Support*** section of the course Moodle page (where applicable)