

AH3660G HOLLYWOOD CINEMA AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Winter 2020

Western University
Department of Visual Arts

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population.

Professor: C. Sprengler

Office: VAC 218

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-2:30pm or by appointment

Email: csprengl@uwo.ca

Class Time: Wednesdays 2:30-4:30 (plus online component)

Room: UCC

TAs: Ira Kazi (ikazi3@uwo.ca) and Kathryn Carney (kcarney2@uwo.ca)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The relationship between film and the visual arts is a long and complex one, stretching back to cinema's very first years. It is one defined by reciprocity, experimentation, and inspiration. This course will begin with a brief survey of this historical relationship and then consider the myriad ways in which contemporary visual artists have made Hollywood film the subject of their work. There will be a special focus on the cinema of Alfred Hitchcock and the artistic practices his oeuvre has inspired.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge

Students will have a thorough knowledge of the key critical and theoretical frameworks that pertain to the practices being studied and will be able to engage with works of art and film according to those frameworks. Specifically, this course will familiarize students with the works and debates central to investigations into the relationship between art and the cinema

2. Knowledge of Methodologies

Students will acquire the discursive/theoretical vocabularies that are utilized in debates within the disciplines of art and film, and will demonstrate their knowledge of the field through the deployment of these vocabularies in writing.

3. Application of Knowledge

Students will utilize their knowledge of appropriate methods, the vocabularies pertinent to the field, and their ability to make appropriate judgements, in order to develop a sound argument regarding a particular practice or historical development, and will be able to defend their argument according to a knowledge of scholarly works. Moreover, students will learn to evaluate written texts, analyze a diverse array of visual imagery, and think critically about the relationship between art objects, films, and their contexts.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. All readings are available online and through our OWL course site. You are not required to purchase any texts.

(Please see weekly schedule below for citation information and web addresses where applicable.)

EVALUATION

Short Reflection Essay: 20%

Due: January 29, 2020
Length: 750-1000 words (3-4 typed pages)

This essay must be submitted to OWL *before* the beginning of class. Late essays will receive a 1% penalty per day. For example, if an essay worth 15% of your final grade is due Wednesday but submitted on Thursday, the maximum mark you can receive is 14/15. We will spend time in class reviewing the marking criteria and details of this assignment.

Test: 25%

Date: March 4, 2020

Research Essay: 35%

Due: April 1, 2020
Length: 2000-2500 words (8-10 typed pages)

Your final research essay must follow Chicago Manual of Style guidelines. You are required to supply a full bibliography of sources cited and consulted. Your mark will be based on the effectiveness of your argument, your ability to analyze critically relevant creative and literary sources, and the clarity and concision of your writing. Details of this assignment will be reviewed in class. We will also discuss the possibility of pursuing an alternative to the research essay that involves devising a plan for a creative component.

Online Forum Post: 4 x 5% = 20%

Complete 4 of 6 options. You may submit all 6 if you wish, and your four best marks will be counted toward your final grade. Forum post details are described below in the weekly schedule.

Please note: The syllabus is subject to change. Advance notice will be given for all changes to readings, tests, and assignments.