

FILM 336 (CRN 6671)
FEM FILM



from Lotte Reiniger's Aschenbrödel

Staff

Co-ordinator: Harriet Margolis (305/83 Fairlie Terrace, 463 6827, Harriet.Margolis@vuw.ac.nz). Office hours: 2-3pm Mondays, 4-5pm Tuesdays, and by appointment at our mutual convenience. Administrator: Kushla Beacon (307/77FT, 463 5359). Student Representative: TBA.

Class times and venue

2nd trimester Tuesdays **1.10pm - 4pm**; Thursdays **3.10 – 6pm**. Please note the different times.

Screenings, lectures, and discussions will be intermixed.

All class sessions **meet in 306/77 FT**, unless otherwise noted.

Course content and objectives

In 2007 FILM 336 Fem Film will explore women's work behind the camera, with some emphasis on NZ material. There will be history of women's involvement in production, a look at some of the variety of work produced, and consideration of issues raised by looking at film production personnel in terms of gender. There'll be an emphasis on silent era films, non-mainstream work from the '60s and '70s, and, in the remaining time, contemporary (especially local) filmmaking.

Feminist film studies is one among many approaches to film analysis; we can expect our group to include diverse appreciations of both film studies and feminism, neither of which should be assumed to be fixed, inflexible concepts. FILM 336 Fem Film will consider the films we see within the historical context of their era of production as well as from our own contemporary perspective; this means we'll also need to look at how feminism has manifested itself in society over time.

Students completing FILM 336 should have a better understanding of both feminism and of feminist approaches to film studies.

Course aims and relation of assessment to objectives

The goal of the course is to enable students to place women's role in film production, as well as individual films, within the context of a feminist analysis of the cinema. Implicitly, this means that we will look at women's filmmaking in terms of its social impact. An in-class presentation exercise gives students a chance to study films by a particular female director from a feminist point of view. While exercises such as the reading quizzes and the short written analysis ask for specific sorts of responses to readings and films, other exercises will ask students to work out their understanding of the relation between feminism and film by considering specific genres in relation to female filmmakers and female audiences, and the impact of public funding on women's access to filmmaking. Class discussions will provide students with opportunities to articulate their thoughts about the relations among film, the media more generally, and feminism understood as both a theoretical concept and a social practice.

Texts

Butler, Alison. *Women's Cinema: The Contested Screen*. London: Wallflower, 2002. \$39.95
 Levitin, Jacqueline, Judith Plessis, and Valerie Raoul, eds. *Women Filmmakers: Refocusing*. New York: Routledge, 2003. \$79.95

These books are available in the bookstore on campus. A list of reserve reading is available at the University Library.

Assessment

All assessment will be internal. Details of each assignment will be given in class and posted on the class notice board as well as Blackboard at the earliest possible date so you can plan ahead for your deadlines.

	Due Date	Weighting
Short analysis exercise (3-5pp; 600-1000 words) Not part of mandatory requirements.	26 July	5%
Quizzes x 2		10%
Quiz 1	16 August	5%
Quiz 2	11 October	5%
One of these 2 quizzes is part of mandatory requirements.		
Pitch for significant figure	September	20%
1) Critique of argument		5%
Draft to be critiqued (variable length)	4 September	
Critique of classmate's draft (var. length)	11 September	
Not part of mandatory requirements.		
2) In-class presentation (12 minutes) Part of mandatory requirements.	18, 20, 25, 27 Sept	10%
3) Clip tape/DVD (var. length, but part of 12-minute total) Due 1 week after presentation. Part of mandatory requirements.		5%
Written exercises x 3; min. 4pp/800 words EACH	18 October	60%
1) Funding case		20%
2) Genre's significance		20%
3) Comparative feminisms Part of mandatory requirements.		20%
Journal (no word limit) Part of mandatory requirements.	18 October	5%

- **Short analysis exercise**

➤ During the first two weeks of class, we will discuss and practice aspects of feminist film analysis, working with films screened in class. You will then be asked to produce a written analysis of your own of a specified film, due on 26 July. A handout specific to this exercise will detail what you will be expected to do on your own, based on the in-class examples.

➤ This exercise is not part of your mandatory requirements, but the 5% it represents is part of your total mark.

➤ Work related to this exercise (brainstorming, drafts, bibliographic material, and anything else of significance to your final product) should be included in an individual pocket in your journal. (You might also include your marked exercise along with your response to my feedback.)

- **Quizzes**

➤ Two take-home quizzes, due on 16 August and 11 October, will each count 5% toward your final mark.

➤ The quizzes will function to highlight important terms, names, and concepts that crop up in readings, as well as screenings, lectures, and discussion. Questions will usually take the form of multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank.

➤ You are expected to submit both quizzes; one is the minimum for mandatory requirements.

- **Pitch for Significant Figure**

- One of the questions we will repeatedly ask of the films and filmmakers we consider is whether they can be called feminist and why. The pitch exercise asks you to stand up before your classmates and explain why a filmmaker of your choice (and okayed by Harriet) can be called a significant feminist filmmaker. Your explanation should include supportive examples from your filmmaker's work, preferably in the form of a clip tape or DVD or other compilation that you can hand in along with your notes and bibliography in your journal.
- The length of your in-class presentation, including any supporting examples from your filmmaker's work, should not exceed 12 minutes.
- The date of your presentation is negotiable so long as it occurs during class on 18, 20, 25, or 27 September.
- This exercise will be broken into component parts, including an opportunity for you to give and receive critical commentary to/from a fellow student on a draft of your presentation. This draft should be complete and clear enough for a reader to understand your argument; if you can do this in the form of an outline, if it takes a more completely written-out statement, or if you can manage to produce a tape/DVD/PowerPoint of your presentation in advance, the format is less important than the substance of your argument and its persuasiveness.
 - Both parties to the critique will be identified by student ID number rather than by name.
 - At this stage, you will probably not be ready to prepare your clip tape in its final form, in which case you'll need to describe the supporting clips well enough for your point in using them to be clear. If you do prepare a clip tape to accompany your draft, be prepared to change it for your actual presentation.
 - You will need to make 2 copies of your critique of your classmate's work, one to hand in to me for evaluation as part of your own grade, and one to hand to your classmate to help her improve her work before making her presentation. The deadlines for turning in your work to be critiqued (4 September) and for turning in your critique of someone else's work (11 September) are not flexible.
 - Not part of mandatory requirements.
- After you have given your presentation, you are welcome to revise it before adding it to your journal. If you do this, you may receive credit for improvements, if your revisions are in fact improvements, especially in response to comments and questions you receive following your presentation.
- You will receive feedback from me on your pitch along with your mark in early October, if not sooner.
- A handout for this assignment will give specific directions for what's expected of you.
- The pitch in front of class along with the clip tape/DVD and critique are part of mandatory requirements.

- **Written exercises**

Think of these 3 responses on your part as falling somewhere between an essay and your answer to a take-home exam question. You are expected to research your response, so you are also expected to provide citations for your sources of information. On the other hand, you have greater flexibility about how you structure your response than you would have if you were writing an essay.

- These three responses are part of mandatory requirements.
- A handout for this assignment will give specific directions for what's expected of you.

- **Journal**

It would be helpful if you were to buy one of those notebooks with clear plastic pockets, so that you could put all material connected with one assignment together in one pocket, separated from material belonging to another assignment.

Your journal should include

- a Table of Contents page at the beginning (which means that you should number your pages—or each plastic pocket, if you use the recommended type of notebook—before turning in your completed journal);
- your notes, drafts, and other significant aspects of your work towards completing any and all of your assignments;
- your clip tape/DVD in support of your in-class pitch,
- your written exercises also due on 18 October

a Bibliography at the end (this should be a complete record of the texts you have used for any and all of your assignments). I recommend that you begin your bibliography from your first entry or entries into your journal, and then keep it up to date as the course progresses and you continue producing work for this course.

If you use MLA style for citations, notes, and bibliography, then you can use the same bibliography for all of your work. This will be explained more fully on a separate handout.

- The journal is part of mandatory requirements, especially the written exercises due on 18 October and the bibliography that supports all of your work.

Written assignments should be handed in personally to the convener in class when they are due.

You can turn work in after hours in the box on the 3rd floor of 77 FT (in the lobby area by the outside door); it will be dated according to the previous working day. Please note that the administrator's schedule usually calls for her to leave at 4.30pm and the building may be locked from 6pm on weekdays and entirely over weekends.

You should make a copy of your work before turning it in; this responsibility rests with you.

- **Penalties**

- Work that is not part of mandatory requirements is still part of your total mark. If you find yourself in the situation of needing to apply for aegrotat (see below), it would be better if you have turned in work from earlier in the course.
- Work is due on the date listed above for each item. Once you have accepted a date on which to give your presentation in class, you must keep to it. There is also no flexibility on turning in your argument and your critique, as other people depend on your keeping to the timetable.
- Otherwise, if you turn in work by 4 pm on the Tuesday or the Thursday after it is officially due, there will be no penalty. After that, there will be a 5-point penalty until the end of the week, and after that the extent of the penalty will be at the convener's discretion.
- Plagiarism may result in a mark of zero. If you gather and use material from any source, you must properly acknowledge that source. Otherwise, you have committed plagiarism.

- **Aegrotat**

Aegrotat provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final assignment, in which case you should contact the course convener.

Group work

There is no group work for this course.

Workload

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 16 hours per week to a 24-point (6-credit) course at 300 level; this includes class time.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Attendance at all class sessions would be ideal. Otherwise, see comments on specific assignments above.



General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension **Error! Bookmark not defined.** from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability

Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

This programme offers:

- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of under graduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social sciences. Contact Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
- Post graduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Pihipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

Student Services

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

FILM 336 FEM FILM – TIMETABLE 2007

	Tuesday 1.10 - 4 pm	Thursday 3.10- 6pm	
JULY	10 Introduction to class <i>Textual analysis</i> The Beach, Para Recordar	12 Definition exercise <i>Ideology & what's "natural"</i> Born in Flames	1
	17 Art School and Social Activism Joyce at 34, A Different Image	19 Theory & practice I Want To Be Joan, Para Recordar	2
	24* Production roles: Guest speaker Lee-Jane Bennion-Nixon *CLASS ENDS AT 3.15 TODAY.	26 SHORT ANALYSIS EXERCISE DUE Calling the Shots, Making of Bread and Roses	3
JULY	31 Some international feminism Women Behind the Camera	AUG 2* Economics & Statistics: Guest Speaker To be confirmed. *CLASS ENDS AT 5.15 TODAY.	4
AUG	7 Some history The Silent Feminists, Without Lying Down	9 Making an American Citizen, The Blot	5
	14 Some fantasy Die Abenteuer des Prinzen Achmed	16 1ST READING QUIZ DUE Look Both Ways	6
<i>TRIMESTER BREAK</i>			
SEPT	4 DRAFT OF ARGUMENT DUE	6	7
	11 CRITIQUE OF ARGUMENT DUE	13	8
	18 In-class presentations	20 In-class presentations	9
	25 In-class presentations	27 In-class presentations	10
OCT	2	4	11
	9	11 2ND READING QUIZ DUE	12

Guest speakers for the 2nd half of the trimester are yet to be confirmed. Screenings will be organized in relation to confirmation of speakers and student presentations.

Award

The Prize for Film Studies, arising from a fund established by the Wai-te-Ata Press, will be awarded to the best student of film history, criticism, or production in all FILM classes for a given year.

Communication

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and posted on the course notice board at 77FT as well as on Blackboard. Messages to individual class members as well as announcements for the class as a whole will be sent out via Blackboard. If you are not set up to access email from Blackboard, please get on to it. If necessary, have Blackboard email redirected to the email account you are most likely to check regularly.