



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

Philosophy Programme

First Trimester, 2008

PHIL 270/370 (CRN 13119/13118) Philosophy of Film

Course Outline

PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME: The Philosophy Department is located in Murphy Bldg. 518 (abbreviated as MY). The Department's office has a direct line, number (04) 463-5368. Alternatively, the office can be rung through the University switchboard: (04) 463 5233 ext. 5368.

LECTURER:

Dr. Sondra Bacharach

Murphy 711, ext. 5178

Sondra.bacharach@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Thursdays 1-3 and by apt.

LECTURES

This course meets Thursdays 9am-12pm in Hunter 220. Lectures will involve informal discussion and evaluation of key texts. Students are expected to attend class regularly, contribute to class discussion and keep up with the reading.

Additional information will be given out in lectures and posted on Blackboard.

A schedule of lecture topics is available on Blackboard.

TEXT

Readings are contained in the 2008 *PHIL 270/370 Coursebook*. It is available for purchase from Student Notes Centre. There will be one or two additional readings distributed through Blackboard later in the course (these are indicated on the lecture schedule).

COURSE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

This course provides an introduction to some central problems in philosophy of film. These include, but are not limited to, issues specific to particular genres (such as horror, romance, documentary) as well as to the nature of film (such as realism, colourization, music in film, the essence of film). If you attend the lectures, do the readings and satisfactorily complete all assessment tasks, then by the end of this course you will be familiar with central philosophical issues concerning the philosophy of film. In addition, you will have developed your own assessment of the different positions and the arguments for them.

Students will be expected to attend lectures regularly, take part in class discussion and keep up with the reading. Those who pass will have an adequate understanding of some of the

central issues discussed in philosophy of film; they will be able to set out and evaluate arguments relevant to these issues.

RELATION OF ASSESSMENT TO COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The topics for the essay(s) and quizzes are chosen to ensure that the subject matter in the course has been adequately covered, while also allowing students to study in some detail the topics they find most interesting. The essay(s) give students an opportunity to provide a philosophically in-depth treatment of an issue covered in the course as well as demonstrating their ability to critically evaluate other philosophers' treatment of the issue. Success will demonstrate a student's breadth of knowledge about the philosophical literature on film.

USE OF TURNITIN.COM (*For reference see s.3.6 of the 2006 Assessment Handbook.*)

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

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's 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 from the course or the University.

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

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

The University requires that certain information be communicated to students, either in the course outline or electronically (ref. Assessment Handbook 3.3). The current version of this information (adapted for FHSS courses) is below, and has also been saved as a separate document in the Common Folder (M:\Common\Course Administration\Course Outlines). This may be appended to your course outline without alteration.

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 hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

ASSESSMENT FOR PHIL 270 STUDENTS

Course Requirements:

1. One essay of about 2500 words, worth 60% of your final grade.
2. 10 short quizzes, each worth 4%, for a total of 40% of your final grade.

DUE DATES/EXTENSIONS:

QUIZZES

Each quiz will last no more than 15-20 minutes and will be distributed at the beginning of class (don't be late!). *No make-ups will be given.* The quiz will have 2 questions, worth 4 points:

- (1) One question is multiple choice, designed to ensure that you have read the material *for that day*, but *will not presuppose any comprehension* of the material. This is worth 1 point.
- (2) The second question will be either T/F, multiple choice, or short answer, and is designed to make sure that you have understood the central issues from the readings and class discussion *from the previous week*. This is worth 3 points.

ESSAY

The essay must be submitted no later than **5pm on Monday 19 May**. Requests for an extension must be arranged with me prior to this date and will be granted **only** in exceptional circumstances. Essay topics will be distributed in early March. Essays must be handed in through Blackboard.

PENALTIES

Essays will be penalised 5 points per day (regardless of whether it is a work day or a weekend day) that it is late.

EXAM:

There is no final exam.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The mandatory course requirements are to hand in one essay.

PLEASE NOTE: Friday 8 June 2008 is the final date on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 8 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate) or in case of serious personal crisis.

WORKLOAD

The university's guideline for a 200-level 1 trimester 22 point course is 15 hours per week, including class time.

ASSESSMENT FOR PHIL 370 STUDENTS:**Course Requirements:**

1. Two essays of about 2500 words each; each is worth 30%, for a total of 60% of your final grade.
2. 10 short quizzes, each worth 4%, for a total of 40% of your final grade.

DUE DATES/EXTENSIONS:**QUIZZES**

Each quiz will last no more than 15-20 minutes and will be distributed at the beginning of class (don't be late!). *No make-ups will be given.* The quiz will have 2 questions, worth 4 points:

- (1) One question is multiple choice, designed to ensure that you have read the material *for that day*, but *will not presuppose any comprehension* of the material. This is worth 1 point.
- (2) The second question will be either T/F, multiple choice, or short answer, and is designed to make sure that you have understood the central issues from the readings and class discussion *from the previous week*. This is worth 3 points.

ESSAY

First Essay: The first essay must be handed in by **5pm on Monday 21 April.**

Second Essay: The second essay must be handed in by **5pm Monday 26 May.**

Requests for an extension must be made prior to the deadline and will be granted **only** in exceptional circumstances. Essay topics will be distributed in early March. Essays must be handed in through Blackboard.

PENALTIES

Essays will be penalised 5 points per day (regardless of whether it is a work day or a weekend day) that it is late.

EXAM:

There is no final exam.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The mandatory course requirements are to hand in at least one essay.

PLEASE NOTE: Friday 8 June 2008 is the final date on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 8 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate) or in case of serious personal crisis.

WORKLOAD

The university's guideline for a 300-level 1 trimester 24 point course is 18 hours per week, including class time.