

# FILM 101 Introduction to Film Analysis

**Trimester 3 2014**

17 November 2014 to 19 December 2014

**20 Points**



*Rear Window- Dir: Alfred Hitchcock (publicity still)*

## IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 17 November 2014 to 19 December 2014

Last piece of assessment due: 18 December 2014

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Screenings

Monday 3.10-6.00pm Hugh Mackenzie HMLT104

Tuesday 2.10-5.00pm Hugh Mackenzie HMLT104

### Lectures

Tuesday 11.00am-12.50pm Hugh Mackenzie HMLT104

Wednesday 3.10-5.00pm Hugh Mackenzie HMLT104

### **Tutorials are held on Thursdays**

Tutorials begin in WEEK 1. Please register for tutorials via the FILM 101 site on Blackboard: go to “Tutorial Sign Up” and then follow the instructions under the “S-Cubed Log In” link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the noticeboard outside the administration office, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

### **NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **Course Coordinator and Tutor:**

Sally Milner      [Sally.Milner@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Sally.Milner@vuw.ac.nz)      04 463 6824      Room 311, 83FT

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2

### **COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information will be provided in lectures and posted on Blackboard. If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

### **PRESCRIPTION**

This course examines how cinema creates meaning through formal elements such as narrative, mise-en-scène, cinematography, sound and editing. It introduces students to key concepts and terms in Film Studies. It develops their textual analysis skills and explores different practices of interpretation.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

*The course is organised into two main areas of study:*

#### ***Film Form and Style***

*Weeks 1-3: We will explore how films create meaning through their formal or aesthetic qualities. We will examine elements such as mise en scène, cinematography, sound, editing, and narrative to develop your ability to read and interpret films.*

#### ***Theoretical Approaches in Film Studies***

*Weeks 3-5: We will examine a number of conceptual and theoretical approaches to Film Studies. These will include issues of representation, genre, authorship, art and documentary cinemas.*

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)**

The aim of this course is to introduce you to the textual analysis of films and to some of the critical approaches employed in Film Studies. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. perform close textual analysis of films, critically using the correct terminology for aspects of narrative, *mise-en-scène*, sound and editing
2. demonstrate knowledge of Film Studies approaches to concepts and categories including commercial and art cinema, documentary, genre, authorship, and ideology
3. analyse some of the social and cultural meanings of film
4. display enhanced critical and analytical skills
5. communicate their ideas and arguments about cinema effectively in a critical, creative and scholarly manner.

## TEACHING FORMAT

The course is delivered over five weeks by **two x three-hour screenings, two x two-hour lectures and one x two-hour tutorial each week**. Screenings allow students to watch key films that will be discussed in lectures and tutorials. The films have been chosen for analysis and you are encouraged to take notes during the screenings. Even if you have already seen a film you are expected to attend the screenings as you will watch with a different emphasis. Lectures involve the presentation of important terms, concepts and debates. Readings support and extend the materials and ideas covered in the lectures. Tutorials will provide the opportunity for discussing issues raised by lectures, screenings and readings; give the opportunity to practise using the terminology and analysis models of the course; and prepare for assignments. Students are expected to take an active participation in both the lectures and the tutorials.

## MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- submit the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates and sit the test (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- attend at least 3 of 4 tutorials.

## WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20-point course is 200 hours over the trimester. This T3 course is compressed into 5 weeks and the workload is much higher than the normal weekly workload. You can expect to spend approximately 40 hours per week attending lectures, screenings, and tutorials; completing the set readings; reflecting on all course content; and working on assignments.

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Response paper #1 (600-700 words)	10%	1, 3, 5	24 Nov, 3pm
2	Close textual analysis essay (1500-1800 words)	30%	1, 3, 4, 5	3 Dec, 3pm
3	Response paper #2 (1000-1200 words)	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	11 Dec, 3pm
4	In-class test (2 hours)	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	18 Dec

***First Assignment: Viewing response (600-700 words)*****Due Date:** Monday, 24 November, 3pm**Weighting:** 10%

This assignment will involve answering one or more questions about a film viewed in class. Further details will be provided in week 1.

**Assessment Criteria:**

- \_fulfilment of the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- \_quality and clarity of expression
- \_statements are supported by evidence from the film
- \_critical skills and argumentation
- \_accurate and complete referencing

**Relationship to Learning Objectives:**

This assignment will develop your understanding of film terminology, encourage you to be a critical viewer, and enhance your ability to communicate in a scholarly way. It addresses CLOs 1, 3 and 5.

***Second Assignment: Textual Analysis Essay (1500-1800 words)*****Due Date:** Wednesday, 3 December, 3pm**Weighting:** 30%**Description:**

This essay will involve the close textual analysis of a film segment from a list of nominated films or an approved alternative. The assignment will further develop your understanding of film terminology, encourage you to be a critical viewer, and enhance your ability to communicate in a scholarly way. Further details will be provided in week 2.

**Assessment Criteria:**

- \_completion of the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- \_evidence of textual analysis skills, including argumentation
- \_quality and originality of the essay
- \_quality and fluency of your expression
- \_understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in film analysis.

**Relationship to Learning Objectives:**

This assignment will improve your knowledge of the concepts studied in the first two weeks of the course. It will develop your skills at textual analysis and argumentation. It will also enhance your written expression. It addresses CLOs 1, 3, 4 and 5.

***Third Assignment: Response paper #2: Viewing and Reading Analysis (1000-1200 words)***

**Due Date:** Thursday, 11 December, 3pm

**Weighting: 20%**

**Description:**

This assignment will involve answering one or more questions about an assigned reading. Further details will be provided in week 3.

**Assessment Criteria:**

- \_fulfilment of the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- \_quality and clarity of expression
- \_critical skills and argumentation
- \_understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in film analysis
- \_accurate and complete referencing of all sources.

**Relationship to Learning Objectives:**

This assignment will develop your understanding of film authorship, narrative and genre, improve your critical skills, and enhance your ability to communicate arguments in a scholarly way. It addresses CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

***Fourth Assignment: In-class test***

**Due Date:** Thursday 18 December 2014, 2 hours in class

**Weighting: 40%**

**Description**

The test will have two parts, with questions requiring short answers and an essay answer.

**Assessment Criteria:**

- \_fulfilment of the set task in a clear, complete, direct, original and relevant manner
- \_evidence of textual analysis skills, including argumentation
- \_understanding and articulation of course issues in a critical fashion
- \_correct responses to questions
- \_argumentation and essay structure
- \_quality and fluency of your expression.

**Relationship to Learning Objectives:**

This assignment relates to the close analysis skills you have developed in the first 3 weeks of the course and your engagement with the issues discussed in the last 2 weeks of class. The test enables you to develop

your close analysis to consider these broader issues and develop your critical argumentation skills. It addresses CLOs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

## SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the “Assignments and Turnitin” section of Blackboard.

Hard-copy assignments are also submitted in the drop slot outside the administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.

Remember to fill in your tutor’s name.

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your tutor in tutorials or during their office hours. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator before or on Friday 19 December 2014. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

## EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

### Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after 2pm Friday 19 December 2014** (as the drop slot will not be cleared again until mid-January 2015).

### Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

## SET TEXTS

Readings will be made available electronically through Blackboard.

If you are a FILM major, you might consider buying EITHER David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction* (9th edition) OR Timothy Corrigan and Patricia White, *The Film Experience: An Introduction* (3rd edition). While these textbooks are useful, they are not compulsory.

You can order textbooks online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz).

## CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

[www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)
- School website: [www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms)

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

**NOTE: Changes to schedule and additional readings will be announced in class and on Blackboard.**

Week 1	Film Form and Style: Textual analysis	<p><b>Readings:</b> Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. <i>Film Art: An Introduction</i>. Tenth edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2013. Pages 112-158</p> <p>Kolker, Robert. <i>Film, Form and Culture</i>. New York, McGraw Hill. 2006. 51-80.</p> <p><b>Monday Screening:</b> <i>Rear Window</i> (Hitchcock, USA, 1954)</p> <p><b>Tuesday Lecture:</b> Viewing and <i>Mise en scène</i></p> <p><b>Tuesday Screening:</b> <i>Goodfellas</i> (Scorsese, USA, 1990)</p> <p><b>Wednesday Lecture:</b> Cinematography</p> <p><b>Thursday tutorial</b> includes preparation for assignment #1</p>
Week 2	Film Form and Style: Textual analysis	<p><b>Monday 24 November 2014 ASSIGNMENT #1 due 3pm.</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. <i>Film Art: An Introduction</i>. Eighth edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008. 477-481</p> <p>Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. <i>Film Art: An Introduction</i>. Ninth edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010. 223-248</p> <p>Prince, Stephen. <i>Movies and Meaning: An Introduction to Film</i>. Fourth Edition. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc., 2007. 10-46</p> <p><b>Monday Screening:</b> <i>Strangers on a Train</i> (Hitchcock, USA, 1951)</p> <p><b>Tuesday Lecture:</b> Cinematography</p> <p><b>Tuesday Screening:</b> <i>TBA</i></p> <p><b>Wednesday Lecture:</b> Editing</p> <p><b>Thursday tutorial</b> includes preparation for assignment #2</p>
Week 3	Film Form and Style: Narrative and genre	<p><b>Wednesday 3 Dec 2014 ASSIGNMENT #2 due at 3pm.</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. <i>Film Art: An Introduction</i>. Ninth edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2010. 318-321, 324-335</p> <p>Corrigan, Timothy and Patricia White. <i>The Film Experience: An Introduction</i>. Third Edition. New York: Bedford/St Martin's, 2012. 183-211, 324-341, 344-345, 350</p> <p>Barry Keith Grant. <i>Film Genre: From Iconography to Ideology</i>. London: Wallflower, 2007. 102-108.</p> <p>Hayward, Susan. <i>Cinema Studies: The Key Concepts</i>. Fourth Edition. New York: Routledge, 2013. 182-189</p> <p><b>Monday Screening:</b> <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> (Kelly and Donen, USA, 1952)</p> <p><b>Tuesday Lecture:</b> Sound</p> <p><b>Tuesday Screening:</b> <i>Volver</i> (Pedro Almodóvar, 2006)</p> <p><b>Wednesday Lecture:</b> Narrative and genre</p>



**Thursday tutorial** includes preparation for assignment #3

Week 4	Theoretical Approaches and Issues in Film Studies	<p><b>Thursday 11 December 2014 ASSIGNMENT #3 due at 3pm</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Gerstner, David A. and Janet Staiger, eds. <i>Authorship and Film</i>. New York. Routledge, 2003. 27-55.</p> <p>Bill Nichols, 'How Can We Define Documentary Film?' in <i>Introduction to Documentary</i>. Second Edition. Bloomington, University of Indiana Press, 2010. 14-41.</p> <p><b>Other readings</b> TBA</p> <p><b>Monday Screening:</b> <i>Ghostdog: The Way of the Samurai</i> (Jim Jarmusch, 1999)</p> <p><b>Tuesday Lecture:</b> Authorship and Art Cinema</p> <p><b>Tuesday Screening:</b> TBA</p> <p><b>Wednesday Lecture:</b> Documentary</p> <p><b>Thursday tutorial</b> includes preparation for test</p>
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Week 5	Theoretical Approaches and Issues in Film Studies	<p><b>Thursday 18 December, 2014 TEST IN CLASS.</b></p> <p><b>Readings:</b> Hayward, Susan. <i>Cinema Studies: The Key Concepts</i>. Fourth Edition. New York: Routledge, 2013. 104-108, 212-215, 390-392</p> <p><b>Other readings</b> TBA</p> <p><b>Monday Screening:</b> <i>I'm Not There</i> (Todd Haynes, 2007)</p> <p><b>Tuesday Lecture:</b> Representation and the real</p> <p><b>Tuesday Screening:</b> TBA</p> <p><b>Wednesday Lecture:</b> Conclusions</p> <p><b>Thursday:</b> test in tutorial time.</p>
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