

FILM 489 Research Project

Trimester 1+2 2014

3 March to 17 October 2014

30 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

Trimester dates:	3 March to 16 November 2014
Teaching dates:	3 March to 17 October 2014
Easter/Mid-Trimester break:	18 April to 4 May 2014
Mid-year break:	3 to 13 July 2014
Mid-trimester break 2/3:	25 August to 7 September 2014
Study week:	20 to 24 October 2014
Final Assessment Due:	Friday 10 October 2014
Withdrawal Dates:	Refer to 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 .

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

There are no classes for this course but students must: attend regular meetings with their supervisor and attend the Film and Media Studies Research Seminars (the topics and dates of seminars will be posted on Blackboard).

Introduction to FILM 489

Date	Time	Room Number
Wed 5 March	4-5pm	TBC

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Coordinator: Dr Alfio Leotta	Email: Alfio.Leotta@vuw.ac.nz
Phone: 463 6520	Room: 83 Fairlie Terrace room 312
Office Hours: tba	Supervisors: tba

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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 gives students the opportunity to pursue an individual research project usually in the form of an extended essay, up to 10,000 words, with regular guidance and support from a supervisor. Practical and creative work may be included as part of a research project. Students who have been approved for and enrolled in FILM 489 will be contacted by the coordinator prior to the start of trimester one regarding their research topic and supervision. Students wishing to include practical work will also need to discuss the resource implications before they enrol. 100% internal assessment.

COURSE CONTENT

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop a detailed academic project which addresses their own research question. The research that they undertake should be presented as extended essay and/ or creative/practical presentation. The project should be approximately 10,000 words in length. Students will meet with their supervisor on a regular basis to discuss the focus of their research question, the methodology or approach they take to their research, and the progress of their project through to final submission. Students should conduct extensive research into their chosen topic. They should also draw on academic sources, such as scholarly books, book chapters, and articles from refereed journals. This will enable them to develop an informed critical response to the topic based on their research, and use these results as the basis of a coherent, well-supported argument.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course *will* be able to:

- 1 Suitably identify relevant research questions and will be able to answer these questions within appropriate methodological frameworks.
- 2 Enhance their critical, research skills and improve their proficiency at film analysis.
- 3 Develop their ability to present their findings in both verbal and written form.

TEACHING FORMAT

Students will be assigned a supervisor for their research project and will work with this supervisor to program a suitable course of study.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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

- Complete the milestones and presentation as agreed with your supervisor
- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the year. 200 hours will be spent on reading and conducting research. Around 100 hours should be dedicated to writing, editing and formatting the research project.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Individual Research Project (10,000 words)	100%	1, 2, 3	Friday 10 October

The assessment for this course will be internal as well as moderated by an external examiner. Further information about assessment will be distributed during the course and placed on Blackboard.

The largest component of FILM 489 is the individual research project that is developed and completed as a 10,000 word research essay in consultation with the supervisor. This is a theoretically informed piece of writing that should demonstrate that students are able to conceive and implement a project, to conceptualise and clarify a research question, and to cogently present the results of the inquiry. In order to accomplish the project students will be expected to meet a number of milestones and complete a compulsory presentation.

Aegrotat period begins: 29 September. Students should be able to show their supervisors 30% (3000 words) of the Research Project to be eligible for Aegrotat.

Milestones

1. Research proposal, with outline timetable, research question and methodology (Due date to be decided with supervisor)
2. First chapter/Literature review (Due date to be decided with supervisor)
3. Full first draft (Due date to be decided with supervisor)

Presentation

Due Date: Week 9/10 (TBC)

Length: 10 minutes

Location: TBA

Description:

In week 10 of Trimester 1 all FILM 489 students will give an informal, ten-minute presentation on their project to their peers. The presentations are an opportunity for students to share preliminary findings with others and receive feedback on their work. Further details will be made available through Blackboard.

Research Essay

Due Date: Friday, 10 October, 3pm

Length: 10,000 words (100%)

Description:

In week 11 of Trimester 2, students must submit their FILM 489 essay. Guidelines will be provided about correct formatting and presentation of this work.

Assessment Criteria

- Fulfil the set task in clear, direct, relevant, complete and timely manner.
- Identify a clearly defined research question that forms the focus of your project.
- Sustain a coherent and logical argument that incorporates a critical reading of the independent research you have undertaken.
- Demonstrate a proficiency at textual analysis at an advanced level (where appropriate).
- Demonstrate a good understanding of the theoretical concepts and methodologies that inform your research paper.
- Demonstrate a high standard of written expression.
- Include accurate and complete references for all relevant sources using footnotes, a bibliography, and filmography.

The marking process

The marking process for a 489 research essay is: a Film staff member is appointed to mark the essay in consultation with the supervisor and the FILM 489 coordinator. S/he marks the essay and writes a report. The student's supervisor then writes a short response to the report and the grade given. Both reports may be forwarded to the external Honours moderator and a final grade is determined at the Honours Examiners' Meeting.

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will enhance research and analytical skills, and the ability to sustain a persuasive argument. It will further develop written communication skills, as well as the capacity to present critical analysis of film and related areas.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

The Research Essay is submitted in two formats:

- Two hardcopies in the drop slot outside the Administration office: 83 Fairlie Terrace. Attach an assignment cover sheet to your essay, found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to alfio.leotta@vuw.ac.nz

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14 November 2014.

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.

RECOMMENDED READING

Students will determine appropriate readings for their research project through their own research and through discussion with their supervisor.

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

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

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

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 Introduction to FILM 489

Week 2

Week 3

Week 4

Week 5

Week 6

Week 7

Mid Trimester Break: Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014

Week 8

Week 9 **Presentations due (TBC)**

Week 10 **Presentations due (TBC)**

Week 11

Week 12

Mid Year Break: Thursday 3 to Sunday 13 July 2014

Week 13

Week 14

Week 15

Week 16

Week 17

Week 18

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2014

Week 19

Week 20

Week 21

Week 22

Week 23 **Research Essay Due, Fri 10 October, 3pm**

Week 24