



SYLLABUS: TOPICS IN EUROPEAN FILM HISTORY

Number of Credits:

Instructor:

Wouter Hessels

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Course Time:

Mondays, 14h-18h & Tuesdays, 14h-17h

4 Filmscreenings in Cinematek on Tuesdays (19h)

Lecturer provides powerpoint presentations

Compulsory reading :

Thompson, K. & Bordwell, D. (2009), *Film History : An Introduction*, McGraw-Hill.

Recommended reading :

Cook, D.A. (2004), *A History of Narrative Film*, W.W. Norton

Bordwell, D. & Thompson, K. (2006), *Film Art : An Introduction*, McGraw-Hill

Stam, R. (2000), *Film Theory : An Introduction*, Blackwell Publishing

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an illustrated survey of the most important currents, schools, films and filmmakers within the European Film History (early cinema in Europe, European avant-garde cinema during twenties, propaganda and poetic realism, beginning of sound film, Italian neorealism, French New Wave, British New Cinema, modernist and contemporary author's cinema). The main emphasis will be placed on seeing and understanding films as texts (with story and style) operating in their different contexts (social, cultural, economic, political, technological,...). Each class will concentrate on a specific current. Four lectures on Tuesday will be followed by a screening in Cinematek/ Filmmuseum Brussels (www.cinematek.be).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course on European Film History will encourage the insights in the (r)evolutions that European film went through from the primitive beginnings in 1895 till the actual state of being of European cinema. The course will broaden and deepen the knowledge of European film classics within their different contexts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Participation

Attendance and active participation is vital to the student's progress. Students are expected to attend classes on time and take notes. Thus, the instructor reserves the right to reduce the student's grade for absences. Participation means attending class, actively contributing to class discussions and turning assignments in on time. More than three unexcused absences will lead to an incremental drop in your grade for the class (i.e., an "A" will become an "A-", an "A-" will become a "B+", etc.) Students who are absent are responsible for finding out what was covered in class, and are still expected to get any assignments in on time.

Exams

Final written exam will be organized at the end of the course.

Assignment

There will also be one homework assignment [2000 words] which should be typed and double-spaced. The assignment concerns an essay on a specific topic. Because the ability to meet deadlines is a crucial skill for all communications professionals:

LATE PAPERS AND MAKE UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

The final grade will be based on the following:

Homework Assignment	30%
Final Exam	50%
Attendance	20%

The grade breakdown is:

A	85 and above
A-	81
B+	77
B	73
B-	69
C+	66
C	62
C-	58
D+	54
D	50
F	anything below 50/100

COURSE CALENDAR
Lectures : Monday 14h-18h / Tuesday 14h-17h
Screenings : 19h – 21h in Cinematek

Monday 30/5/2011

European Precinema + Early film in France.

Tuesday 31/5/2011

Early cinema in England (Brighton School), Italy and Denmark.

Monday 6/6/2011

Early cinema in Sweden + German Expressionism

Tuesday 7/6/2011

Kammerspielfilm + Avant-garde cinema in France (impressionism, dadaism, surrealism)

Screening at 7 pm in Cinematek

"Der letzte mann" (1924, F.W. Murnau)

Monday 13/6/2011

Russian 'montage' cinema + Beginnings in sound cinema (Germany & France)

Tuesday 14/6/2011

French poetic realism + Alfred Hitchcock, from British silent to sound film

Screening at 7 pm in Cinematek

"The 39 steps" (1935, Alfred Hitchcock)

Monday 20/6/2010

European film during 30s + Italian Neorealism (1945-1952)

Tuesday 21/6/2010

French New Wave, British Free Cinema & New Cinema (50s – 60s)
Screening at 7 pm in Cinematek

"Kes" (1969, Ken Loach)

Monday 27/6/2010 (deadline paper !)

European author's cinema during 70s

Tuesday 28/6/2010

European author's cinema during 80s
Screening at 7pm in Cinematek

"The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover" (1989, Peter Greenaway)

Monday 4/7/2011

Danish Dogme 95 + Contemporary European Cinema

Tuesday 5/7/2011

Contemporary European Cinema

11/7 – 15/7

Final Written Exam