



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>. Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Cinematic Language

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
MEA	1004	91303	2, 2009	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOART
Academic org:	FOA005
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	100703

STAFFING

Examiner: Leonie Jones
Moderator: Stuart Thorp

RATIONALE

Through a program of weekly screenings and seminars students will be introduced to the skills of audio-visual film analysis and the basic analytical terminology of Cinema Studies. This course is intended as an introduction to the history and aesthetics of film, with a strong emphasis on cinema as an art form.

SYNOPSIS

Building on an acquired understanding of the elements of film technique, students will address questions of narrative, spectatorship, and a consideration of film as social and cultural document. Cinematic language will broaden a student's notion of cinema, aims to expand their notions of what film might be, and develops their knowledge of the medium.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students will be able to demonstrate:

1. creativity and initiative in illustrating how filmmaking has developed as an art form;
2. critical literacy through oral and written communication of the basic principles of narrative and non-narrative forms of cinema;
3. professional literacy in the analysis of function of film as a formal construction with particular reference to the artistic elements of film: mise-en-scene, montage, cinematography and sound.

TOPICS

Description	Weighting (%)
1. Understanding film as an art form	20.00
2. Film function and form	40.00

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|----|---|-------|
| 3. | Critical analysis of film | 20.00 |
| 4. | The changes in film art through history | 20.00 |

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Borwell, D & Thompson, K 2007, *Film art: an introduction*, 8th edn, McGraw-Hill Companies, New York.

Cohen, H, Salazar, JF & Barkat, I 2008, *Screen media arts: an introduction to concepts and practices*, Oxford University Press, Australia.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Aumont, J et al 1992, *Aesthetics of film*,
(Texas Film Studies Series)

Beaver, F E *Dictionary of film terms: the aesthetic companion to film analysis*,
(Twayne's Filmmakers Series)

Gledhill, C & Williams, L (eds) 2000, *Reinventing film studies*, Arnold, London.

Hollows, J, Hutchings, P & Jancovich, M (eds) 2000, *The film studies reader*, Arnold, London.

McKee, R 1999, *Story: substance, structure, style and the principles of screenwriting*, Methuen Publishing,

Miller, T & Stam, R (eds) 2003, *A companion to film theory*, New York University Press,

Murray, J H 1998, *Hamlet on the holodeck: the future of narrative in cyberspace*, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

Ohanian, T A & Phillips, M E 1996, *Digital filmmaking, the changing art and craft of making motion pictures*, Focal Press, Boston.

Ryan, M L 2001, *Narrative as virtual reality: immersion and interactivity in literature and electronic media*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Sloane, S 2000, *Digital fictions: storytelling in a material world*, Ablex Pub, Stamford, Conn.

Tasker, Y (ed) 2002, *Fifty contemporary filmmakers*, Routledge, London.

Turkle, S 1995, *Life on the screen: identity in the age of the internet*, Simon & Schuster, New York.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Directed Study	76.00
Lectures	26.00
Private Study	37.00
Tutorials	26.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date	Objectives assessed	Graduate skill	Level assessed
ASSIGNMENT 1	100.00	20.00	02 Oct 2009 (see note 1)	All	U3, U4, U9	1, 1, 1
ASSIGNMENT 2	100.00	30.00	30 Oct 2009 (see note 2)	All	U3, U4, U9	1, 1, 1
ASSIGNMENT 3	100.00	50.00	02 Nov 2009 (see note 3)	All	U3, U4, U9	1, 1, 1

NOTES

1. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 1 to 3. Assignment date is to be confirmed.
2. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 1 to 3. Assignment date is to be confirmed.
3. This assessment item is aligned with Objectives 1 to 3. Assignment date is to be confirmed.

GRADUATE QUALITIES AND SKILLS

Elements of the following Graduate Skills are associated with the successful completion of this course.

Graduate skill assessed	Level assessed
Academic & Professional Literacy (Skill U3)	Introductory (Level 1)
Written & Oral Communication (Skill U4)	Introductory (Level 1)
Creatvty, Initiative & Entrprse (Skill U9)	Introductory (Level 1)

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
It is the student's responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration. For this course, normal class attendance consists of one 1 hour lecture and one 2 hour tutorial.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
To successfully complete an individual assessment item, a student must achieve at least 50% of the marks or a grade of at least C-. This statement must be read in conjunction with Statement 4 below.

- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
If students submit assignments after the due date without extenuating circumstances and without prior approval, then a penalty of a maximum of 5% of the assigned mark may apply for each working day late, up to a maximum of 10 working days, at which time a mark of zero can be recorded for that assignment.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade, a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the aggregate of the weighted marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- 6 Examination information:
There is no exam for this course.
- 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Given the details under (6) above, there are no deferred exams for this course. However, if any deferred/makeup work is granted, it would have to be submitted by a date set by the examiner.
- 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6 Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL
<http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm>

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 (a) The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must lodge the assignment at the USQ. (b) All Faculty of Arts assignments must be lodged in the Faculty Assessment Centre on the Ground Floor of Q Block no later than 12 noon on the due date. (c) In the event that a due date for an assignment falls on a local public holiday in their area, such as a Show holiday, the due date for the assignment will be the next day. Students are to note on the assignment cover the date of the public holiday for the examiner's convenience. (d). Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be despatched to USQ within 24 hours if requested by the Examiner. (e) In accordance with University's Assignment Extension Policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner of a course may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances such as documented ill-health. (f) Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in the course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of the course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete-Makeup). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study. (g) Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or sit for an examination at the scheduled time, may apply to defer an assessment in the course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded: IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).
- 10 Students can expect that questions in assessment items in this course may draw upon knowledge and skills that they can reasonably be expected to have acquired before enrolling in the course. This includes knowledge contained in pre-requisite courses and appropriate communication, information literacy, analytical, critical thinking, problem solving or

numeracy skills. Students who do not possess such knowledge and skills should not expect to achieve the same grades as those students who do possess them.