

Course Title	:	Film, Gender, & Sexuality
Course Code	:	CUS3309
Recommended Study Year	:	3-4
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture-Tutorial
Category in Major Prog.	:	Elective
Prerequisite(s)	:	Nil
Co-requisite(s)	:	Nil
Exclusion(s)	:	Nil
Brief Course Description	:	<p>This course seeks to help students understand how a film conveys its meanings by surveying key developments and debates in film theory. It is an introductory study of film with a special emphasis on the perspectives of cultural studies. Students are provided with the basic concepts and tools needed to appreciate and criticize films on substantial grounds. Concepts are explained with concrete examples from different cultures from Euro-American to Asian.</p> <p>Specific topics to be discussed may include: style and meaning in the cinema; elements of film form and narrative; expressionism and realism; genre criticism and star studies; semiotics and structuralism in film studies; film criticism and interpretation; auteurism and theories of authorship; national cinemas and film movements; ideology and inter-textuality; gender and sexuality in cinema; cultural imperialism and local cinema, etc.</p>
Aims	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To equip students with a variety of analytical and critical tools in studying and understanding cinema. 2. To introduce to students the aesthetics and politics of a variety of films selected from different genres, movements, historical periods and cultures. 3. To help students to explore various ways of looking at cinema: as technology, as art form, as “language”, as industry, as consumer product and as cultural formation.
Learning Outcomes	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will be able to gain a more critical understanding of the meanings of film as cultural text and as representation. 2. Students learn to grasp and apply analytical and critical tools on films from different historical periods and cultures. 3. Students will be able to engage with key developments and debates in film theory in relation to cinema culture in their daily experiences.
Indicative Content	:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Textual analysis and semiotics; 2. Theories of authorship; 3. Classical Hollywood narrative; 4. Continuity and montage; 5. National cinemas and film movements; 6. Expressionism and realism;

7. Mise-en-scène studies;
8. Genre studies;
9. National cinemas and film movements;
10. Ideological and feminist film criticism;
11. Gender and sexuality in cinema;
12. Film as social and political practice;
13. Star studies and spectatorship.

- Teaching Method : 1. Lectures supplemented with a wide range of film examples to illustrate the topics covered will be given. Lectures will introduce key concepts and provide contexts for the film samples shown.
2. Students are required to watch a list of additional films at the library outside class time.
3. Tutorial presentations and discussions to enhance students' understanding of lecture topics, reading and screening materials. Students are required to present summaries of required readings and apply critical tools and concepts to the film samples screened in and outside class.
4. Students are expected to participate in class discussions and respond to tutorial presentations actively.
- Measurement of Learning Outcomes : 1. Articulate and well-organized oral class presentations in which students are able to demonstrate their understanding of film as cultural text and as representation. Final examination assesses the depth, criticality and comprehensiveness of this understanding;
2. Participation in class discussion where students employ critical tools studied to analyze films screened in and outside class, and demonstrate a critical understanding of different film cultures discussed;
3. Final examination in which students apply key concepts and debates in film theory to discuss films previously not studied in class.
- Assessment : Students are assessed on the basis of 70% Continuous Assessment and 30% Final Examination, with the following grade distribution:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Participation in Class Discussion | [30%] |
| Oral Presentations | [40%] |
| Final Examination | [30%] |

Required/Essential Readings:

- Prince, Stephen. *Movies and Meaning: An Introduction to Film*. Fourth Edition. Boston: Allyn & Bacon,, 2006.
- Tinkcom, Matthew and Amy Villarejo. Eds. *Keyframes: Popular Cinema and Cultural Studies*. London: Routledge, 2001.
- Cook, Pam. Ed. *The Cinema Book*. London: British Film Institute, 1985.
- Nelmes, Jill. Ed. *Introduction to Film Studies*. Fourth Edition. London and New York: Routledge, 2007.

Recommendation/Supplementary Readings:

- Arroyo, Jose. Ed. *Action/Spectacle Cinema: A Sight and Sound Reader*. London: BFI, 2001.
- Bordwell, David, and Noel Carroll. Eds. *Post-Theory: Reconstructing Film Studies*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1996.
- Chow, Rey. *Primitive Passions: Visuality, Sexuality, Ethnography, and Contemporary Chinese Cinema*. New York: Colombia University Press, 1995.
- Gehring, Wes D. Ed. *Handbook of American Film Genres*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988.

- Gledhill, Christine and Linda Williams. Eds. *Reinventing Film Studies*. London: Arnold; New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Lehman, P. Ed. *Defining Cinema*. New Brunswick, NJ.: Rutgers University Press, 1997.
- Mast, Gerald and Marshall Cohen. Eds. *Film Theory and Criticism*, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.
- Mulvey, Laura. *Visual and Other Pleasures*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1989.
- Nichols, Bill. Ed. *Movies and Methods*. Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1981..
- Nichols, Bill. Ed. *Movies and Methods, Volume II*. Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1985.
- Rosen, Philip. *Narrative, Apparatus, Ideology*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1986.
- Turner, Graeme. *Film as Social Practice*. Fourth Edition. New York and London: Routledge, 2006.

Important Notes:

1. Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 2 hours of class contact and 7 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
3. Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
4. To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.