

**Lingnan University**  
**Department of Visual Studies**

<b>Course Title</b>	:	Special Topics in Visual Studies: Watching Films:How We Understand and Respond to Film Stories
<b>Course Code</b>	:	VIS3399K
<b>Recommended Study Year</b>	:	3 and 4
<b>No. of Credits/Term</b>	:	3
<b>Mode of Tuition</b>	:	Lecture-tutorial mode
<b>Class Contact Hours</b>	:	2-hour lecture per week 1-hour tutorial per week
<b>Category</b>	:	Programme Elective - History of the Visual Arts & Aesthetics
<b>Prerequisite</b>	:	Nil
<b>Co-requisite</b>	:	Nil
<b>Exclusion</b>	:	Nil
<b>Exemption Requirement</b>	:	Nil

**Brief Course Description:**

Film viewing is often thought of as a passive experience but, in fact, watching films requires us to engage in constant mental activity. To understand a film's basic story, we must mentally process the information the film provides. Many approaches to film studies assume that it's obvious how we understand films and why we find them exciting, fun, romantic, or scary. These approaches often focus on understanding films' "hidden meanings" or social impact. This course, in contrast, does not assume that the common responses to a film's basic story are so easily understood. We will use psychological research to better understand how viewers follow film stories and how films create such powerful emotions. This approach, sometimes called cognitive film theory, will be useful for students interested in all forms of narrative art as well as those who want to create more effective artworks.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 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/>.