

EPHUMA 160: Screen and Cultural Studies

Ourimbah

Semester 1 - 2024



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

The Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre recognises and respects the unique history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The Centre is committed to providing a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all.

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This course introduces students to the various thematic issues presented through film; specifically examining historical, political and cultural studies. The course will provide a basic understanding of various techniques available to filmmakers to create cinematic representations. It will also consider the influence and relevance of film in creating cultural understanding.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Contact Hours	Lecture Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1 Tutorial Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per week(s) for 11 week(s) starting Week 2
Unit Weighting	10
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Dr Joyleen Christensen Joyleen.Christensen@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4348 4190 Consultation: Please email to schedule an appointment.		
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.		
School Office	<table><tr><td>Callaghan Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP) Ph: 02 4921 5558 enabling@newcastle.edu.au</td><td>Ourimbah HO 168, Humanities Building Ph: 02 4348 4076 enabling@newcastle.edu.au</td></tr></table>	Callaghan Ground Floor, General Purpose Building (GP) Ph: 02 4921 5558 enabling@newcastle.edu.au	Ourimbah HO 168, Humanities Building Ph: 02 4348 4076 enabling@newcastle.edu.au
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SYLLABUS

Course Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historical films: realism, speculative• Political films: documentary, satire• Cultural films: understanding, clashes
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate academic writing, analysis, and critical thinking skills.2. Recall, describe, and explain the language and terminology of film studies.3. Describe and explain basic cinematic techniques.4. Analyse and illustrate the transmission of meaning through film.5. Analyse and discuss how social/cultural issues are represented through film.
Course Materials	All course materials will be provided on the course Canvas site. Students are not required to purchase a textbook.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the Film Studies discipline Introduce the concept of visual language Focus on terminology of film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the difference between escapist and meaningful cinema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion post
2	4 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verisimilitude Overview of the various approaches to dealing with historical content in cinema Focus on the preference of myth over historical accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mise-en-scene How setting, costumes, props and performance are used to convey meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog Discussion post
3	11 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation Discussion of bias, interpretation and manipulation by filmmakers in telling historical narratives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinematography Use of lighting, framing, composition, shot size camera angles, camera movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog Discussion post
4	18 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social History Discussion of role of cinema in informing the public about 'lived' history, particularly from a feminist perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editing Continuity editing, basic juxtaposition, jump cuts, cross cutting and montage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog Discussion post
5	25 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing: A Personal Journey with Martin Scorsese through American Movies: Part 1 (1995) Dir. Scorsese, M & Wilson, M.H. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation due in tutorial Discussion post
6	1 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentary Discuss the issue of audience trust in the accuracy of the documentary form 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sound Difference between diegetic and non-diegetic sound Effective use of music and voice-over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog Discussion post Note: Blog and discussion posts (Weeks 2-6) must be up to date by 5pm Friday 5 April
7	8 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> True Stories Discussion of drama as a means of presenting a political issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auteur Theory The director as author. Who is speaking to the audience? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog Discussion post
Recess				
Recess				
8	29 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sci-Fi / Horror Discussion of political allegories in mainstream genre films 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genre Examination of conventions and evolution of genres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog Discussion post
9	6 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultures Co-existing Presenting the challenge of melding cultural traditions with modern western culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narrative Structures Visual storytelling, plot points and 3-act structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay 5pm Monday 6 May Blog Discussion post
10	13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewing: Lion (2016) Dir. Gareth Davis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion and analysis of Lion as an example of culture in film 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion post
11	20 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fan Culture Discussion of the role of fandom in modern cinema 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characterisation Use of archetypes and character development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog Discussion post
12	27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Culture for Kids Discussion of the representation of different cultures in childrens' films 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision / Exam Preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed blog 5pm Friday 31 May Discussion post
13	3 Jun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No lectures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No tutorials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Home Exam 5pm Friday 7 June Discussion post
Examination Period				

Examination Period

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Blog + Discussion	Blogs: Before tutorial Weeks 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 Discussion Posts: Sunday 11:59pm every week	Individual	20%	1, 4, 5
2	Presentation	Monday 25 th March in tutorial	Pair	15%	1, 2, 4
3	Essay	Monday 6 th May 5pm	Individual	25%	1, 3, 5
4	Take home exam	Friday 7 th June 5pm	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Late Submissions The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 5% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Blog + Discussion

Assessment Type Online Learning Activity
Description Students will be required to submit a written comment (150 words) referring to the weekly reading to an online blog (available on Canvas). This piece of writing must be posted before tutorials each week (as per class schedule). After each tutorial (within one week), students must contribute a comment to the weekly discussion board (available on Canvas) to reflect on their initial thoughts. Completed blogs will be assessed at the end of Week 6 and at the end of semester
Weighting 20%
Due Date Blogs: Before tutorial Weeks 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11
Discussion Posts: Sunday 11:59pm every week
Submission Method Online
Assessment Criteria Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method Online
Feedback Provided Online

Assessment 2 - Presentation

Assessment Type Presentation
Description Students create a presentation (2 minutes) discussing a single shot from one the films in the history section of the course (Weeks 2-4). The student should provide an insight into the mise-en-scene and cinematography used by the filmmakers.
Weighting 15%
Due Date Monday 25th March in tutorial
Submission Method In class
Assessment Criteria Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method Online
Feedback Provided Online

Assessment 3 - Essay

Assessment Type Essay
Description Students will write a 1200 word essay related to a film from the 'Politics' section of the course (Weeks 7 - 9) The essay question will appear on Canvas at least 3 weeks prior to the due date. This essay should be referenced appropriately (APA style). Penalties for incorrect referencing will apply.
Weighting 25%
Due Date Monday 6th May 5pm
Submission Method Online
Assessment Criteria Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method Online
Feedback Provided Online

Assessment 4 - Take home exam

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Description	Students will respond to 2 short answer questions and one essay question related to any aspect of the course.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	Friday 7 th June 5pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Rubric provided in Canvas
Return Method	Not returned
Feedback Provided	Feedback will not be provided

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

Communication Methods

Email is the principal form of communication at the university and within this course. Always use your student email (NUmail), rather than a private email address, and check this regularly. As Course Coordinator I will try to respond to your email within three (3) working days. I will not normally respond to emails over the weekends. Please be courteous in your email communication and in the online space.

Canvas is used to distribute course material, announcements and other information. It is also used for online quizzes and to allow students to track their individual progressive assessment results throughout the semester via Grades.

Discussions forums in Canvas can be used to ask questions about minor issues. Students are strongly encouraged to use these to communicate with each other, discuss issues relating to the course, and solve minor problems.

Attendance and Engagement

In addition to face-to-face hours in class, out-of-class study and related work will require an additional commitment of up to 10 hours per week of reading, preparation, and study time over the semester. Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact hours including assessment) per semester per 10 unit course.

To maximise your learning opportunities, you should read all relevant material prior to attending class.

It is strongly recommended that you attend your classes every week. Our data shows that

you will get better results if you attend class with your peers. If you do have to miss a class, you should catch up on any missed work by accessing lecture recordings if you are enrolled face-to-face. While online tutorials are recorded, on-campus tutorials are not, so you should view other resources available on your Canvas site and contact your course coordinator if you would like advice on how to best catch up on any material that was missed. **If you are unable to attend classes regularly you should reach out to your course coordinator as soon as possible to discuss ways that you can continue to engage with the learning material.**

A plan of regular revision throughout the semester is also strongly recommended to help you manage your time, consolidate information and retain that knowledge for the duration of the course and beyond.

Assessment items have been designed to reinforce and revise the course material, and ensure you are up to date with course content. You are required to submit all assessable items by the due dates unless prior arrangements have been made.

Additional Contact Details

If you have any questions about your course, please speak with your course coordinator, lecturer or tutor first. For general enquiries, please contact the Pathways and Academic Learning Support Centre Office or your Student Liaison Officer. Contact details for both the office and Student Liaison Officers can be found [here](#).

Yapug students can also contact your Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor [Hannah Pipe](#) or your Program Convenor [Dan Collins](#).

Adverse Circumstances

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for Adverse Circumstances must be lodged via the online Adverse Circumstances system for all individual assessment items worth 30% or greater **by 11:00pm on the day the assessment is due**. For assessment items less than 30%, you will need to contact your Course Coordinator by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item.

Before applying you must refer to the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Procedure](#) and the [Adverse Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items Policy](#).

Please note that students must submit their adverse circumstances application via the online Adverse Circumstances system by 11:00pm on the due date of the assessment item, even if you are using a [Reasonable Adjustment Plan \(RAP\)](#) as your supporting documentation.

Written Assessment Word Limits

If this course includes written assessments, the word limit listed will include headings, sub-heading, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does not include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. You will not receive a penalty for exceeding the word limit (there is a tolerance of up to 10%), but any work after the maximum word limit may not be included within the allocation of marks.

Academic Misconduct

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. Please refer to the [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Oral Interviews (Vivas)

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

Workplace Health and Safety Requirements

There are no specific WH&S requirements for this course.

Software	Free Microsoft Office software is available to enrolled students here and includes 5 TB of free cloud storage with OneDrive.
Timetable	Your timetable for this course is available via the myUni Student Portal and can also be found here .
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Director, PALS. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Director approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.
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