FILM 101 INTRODUCTION TO FILM STUDIES
CRN 9914; 1st Trimester 2007

Screening:                              Tuesday 1.10-4.00 pm
Lectures:                               Wednesday 4.10-6.00 pm
Tutorials:                               Weekly: Thursday – see Film 101 noticeboard for times and rooms

Teaching Staff
Course Coordinator:                     Dr Tim Groves
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Tutors:                                 Elric Kane; Rosie Hole; Allison Maplesden; Rachel Burt; Felix Preval
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Contact Details:                        These will be posted

Administrative Assistant:              Kushla Beacon
Room:                                   77 Fairlie Terrace, level 3
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Course Aims and Objectives:
The aim of this course is to introduce you to the textual analysis of films, and to some of the critical approaches employed in Film Studies. After completing this course you should be able to undertake close textual analysis of films, and you should be able to use terms such as narrative, mise-en-scene, sound and editing. You should possess knowledge of the conventions of documentary cinema, and approaches to cinema such as genre and authorship. You should also have developed a critical awareness of the ways in which categories such as gender and audience can be used to analyse the social and cultural meanings of film.

The course will improve your analytical and critical skills. It will develop your ability to conduct film analysis and independent research. It will also enhance your ability to write essays, make oral presentations, and work in small groups.
Course Content:
This course is organized into two main areas of study:

**Weeks 1-6:** We will explore the how films create meaning through their formal or aesthetic qualities. We will employ the different elements of cinema, such as mise-en-scene, narrative, sound, and editing, to develop your ability to “read” or interpret a film.

**Weeks 7-12:** In this period of the course, we will examine a number of different conceptual and theoretical approaches to Film Studies. We will examine the conventions of documentary cinema. We will use horror films and the road movie to investigate the concept of genre. We will discuss the work of Martin Scorsese as an example of film authorship. We will consider the representation of gender in cinema, especially the figure of the “warrior woman”, and then different notions of the audience in Film Studies.

Readings:
The required readings for each tutorial are listed at the end of this guide. The first half of the course will use Bordwell and Thompson’s *Film Art: An Introduction*. Although this is a recommended text, it is not compulsory for you to buy it. You can find copies on reserve in the library. The second half of the course will use readings that you can find in the *Student Notes*. These will be available from the Student Notes shop shortly.

Workload:
The university anticipates that you should be able to devote about 12 hours per week to an 18-point course at 100 level. Therefore you should expect to spend, on average, about 7 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, viewing films, preparing for classes and writing assignments.

Group Work:
In order to complete assignment two, you will work directly with two or three other students in your tutorial group. This will involve a number of meetings outside normal class time.

Assessment Requirements:
There will be four assessment items for this subject. All assessment will be internal. Full details of the assignments, including assessment criteria, will be distributed during the course.

**First Assignment: Textual Analysis (30%) 1500 words**
Due Date: Thursday, April 5th, 4.30 pm
This essay will involve the close textual analysis of a 2-3 minute sequence from a feature film screened during the course, or similar topic. This assignment will enable you to develop your textual analysis and essay writing skills.

**Second Assignment: Creative Exercise (20%)**
Due Date: Tutorials in week 7
You and the other members of your small group will give a presentation in class in week seven. The presentation will be on topics covered in weeks 1-6, such as narrative, mise-en-scene, editing and sound. It will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge of these concepts, and your ability to apply them in a critical manner. It will enhance your oral communication skills and capacity to work in groups.

**Third Assignment: Reading Logs (10%)**
Due Date: Weeks 8-12 in tutorials
Each week you will write a short summary (80-100 words) of a specific article from the list of weekly readings. For each one of these logs you complete satisfactorily, you will receive 2%. You can only submit these in your tutorial. This assignment will help you develop your knowledge of approaches to film studies such as authorship, gender and audiences, as well as types of film such as documentary and art cinema.
Fourth Assignment (40%) 1800-2000 words
Due Date: Friday, June 9th, 4.30 pm
This will be a research/critical analysis essay that deals with one of the topics discussed in the course. It will enable you to develop and demonstrate your knowledge of key concepts and/or approaches, such as genre, authorship, documentary, gender and audience. It will enhance your research, critical, analytical and essay writing skills.

Handing in Assignments:
Assignments two and four should be placed in the drop box at the Film and Theatre administration office on level 3, 77 Fairlie Terrace. Please use a cover sheet. Do not submit your essay to your tutor. You must keep a copy of your assignment before submitting it. Assignment one will be conducted in tutorials in week 5, and assignment three must be submitted in tutorials in weeks 8-12.

Penalties:
Late submission of assignments one and four will be penalized at the rate of 2% per working day. Work submitted more than five working days after the date without a formal extension may not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with your tutor. If you do not complete your presentation for assignment two in your week 7 tutorial because you were unable to attend, you will fail unless you provide a medical certificate for your absence. If you do not submit a reading log because you forgot or were absent from the tutorial in weeks 8-12, you will forfeit the 2% for that log unless you provide a medical certificate for your absence.

If you are having problems meeting a deadline for either assignment one or four, then you should contact your tutor before the due date. Your tutor will consider any reasonable request for an extension, but please note that applications for extensions should be made at least two days before the due date. There will be no extensions for assignments two and three.

Mandatory Course Requirements:
In order to pass this course, you must complete all assignments by the due dates. (For assignment three, you must submit at least three of the reading logs in order to have completed the task.) You must receive at least a ‘C’ grade overall. You must also attend at least eight (8) tutorials.

Communication of Additional Information:
Any additional information concerning the course, including changes, will be announced in classes and posted on the course notice board on level 3, 77 FT and/or on Blackboard.

General University Policies and Statutes:
Students should familiarise themselves with the University’s policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under ‘About Victoria’ on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct
The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University’s life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic grievances
If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are
available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal
grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is
published on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic integrity and plagiarism
Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University
community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are
expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines
plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one’s own,
whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the
Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is
acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of
plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be
penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University’s website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)
The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities.
The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to
demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition
(temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve
in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator
as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from
Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and
support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

  telephone: 463-6070
  email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School’s Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained
from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support
Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty
has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing
you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. Assistance for specific groups is
also available from the Kaiwawao Maori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a
variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support,
advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The
Screenings and Weekly Topics

[Please note: the numbers in [ ] refer to pages in the student notes]

Week 1: Introduction to the Course; What is Film Form?
Screening: Run Lola Run (Tom Tykwer, Germany, 1998)

Week 2: Visual Storytelling
Screening: The Silence of the Lambs (Jonathan Demme, USA, 1991)

Week 3: Narrative and Structure
Screening: The Searchers (John Ford, USA, 1956)

Week 4: Mise-en-Scene: The Look of Film
Screening: Flatliners (Joel Schumacher, USA, 1990)

Week 5: Editing
Screenings: Requiem for a Dream (Darren Aronofsky, USA, 2000)

Week 6: Sound (Alex Greenhough); Music (Geoff Stahl)
Screening: Elephant (Gus Van Sant, USA, 2003) The Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Jacques Demy, France, 1962)

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Week 7: NO LECTURE OR READINGS: CREATIVE EXERCISE ASSIGNMENT IN TUTORIALS
Screening: Halloween (John Carpenter, USA, 1978)

Week 8: Documentary (Russell Campbell)
Screenings: Railway Worker (Margaret Thomson, New Zealand, 1948) The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter (Connie Field, USA, 1980) Don't Look Back (D.A. Pennebaker, USA, 1967)
Readings: Nichols, Bill. “The Voice of Documentary.” Film Quarterly 36.3
Week 9: **Genre:** The Slasher Film and the Road Movie  
**Screening:** *Easy Rider* (Dennis Hopper, USA, 1969)  
**Reading:**  
Altman, Rick. *Film/Genre.* London: British Film Institute, 1999. 13-29. [59]  

Week 10: **Authorship**  
**Screening:** *Goodfellas* (Martin Scorsese, USA, 1990)  
**Readings:**  

Week 11: **Abjection and Maternity** (Tim); **The Warrior Woman** (Lee-Jane Bennion-Nixon)  
**Screening:** *Aliens* (James Cameron, USA, 1986)  
**Readings:**  

Week 12: **Film Audiences**  
**Screenings:** *Sherlock, Jr.* (Buster Keaton, USA, 1924)  
*Trekkies* (Roger Nygard, USA, 1997)  
**Readings:**  