

MAS 205

Introduction to the Cinema

MQC1 Evening 2015

Dept of Media, Music & Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Duncan McLean

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By appointment

Nicole Anderson

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit is an introduction to: 1) some of the main theoretical issues and debates that have defined film studies as an area of cultural interest; and 2) some of the key historical moments in classical Hollywood filmmaking and international filmmaking (from the 1940s through to more recent times). Lectures and tutorials, in conjunction with weekly film screenings, consider topics such as the codes, conventions, and aesthetics of film narrative; film genres; film styles; film canons; modes of storytelling; the relation between fiction film and documentary film (and their hybrids).

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.

Develop an expansive historical knowledge of film theory.

Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.

Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.

Demonstrate skills in independent academic research in the discipline, including

identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.

Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.

Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Participation	15%	Ongoing
Essay One	20%	5pm Friday 17th April
Essay Two	40%	5pm Friday 22nd May
Film Log	25%	5pm Friday 12th June

Participation

Due: **Ongoing** Weighting: **15%**

Tutorials are compulsory. Students must attend, be punctual for and actively participate in at least 80% of all lectures and tutorials to pass the unit. You must notify your tutor as soon as possible if you believe you may be absent at any stage and you should provide your tutor with evidence of a medical or personal emergency. You will be expected to participate in class discussions as much as possible and you must come prepared to every tutorial having:

- a) closely read the required readings
- b) attended the screening and lecture

Marking Criteria

- Preparation for class and active participation (by contributing to large and small group discussions and participating in tutorial activities)
- Ability to engage with key concepts and themes covered in readings and lectures in relation to specific films.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- · Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.
- · Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.

Essay One

Due: 5pm Friday 17th April

Weighting: 20%

1000 word essay.

Topics will be distributed in class and on iLearn. Your essay should demonstrate wide reading and in-depth critical analysis. You are expected to draw upon the weekly readings that relate to your chosen essay topic as well as find other relevant *academic* sources. You should base your research on academic journal articles and books.

Marking Criteria

- · Understanding and critical engagement with key readings in the unit
- · Comparison and analysis of key concepts in the unit
- · Critical analysis of relevant film/s
- · Independent research within the discipline
- Use of research and reading to support the argument
- Organisation of argument including clear addressing of the question
- Clarity of communication
- · Accurate and appropriate referencing

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.
- Develop an expansive historical knowledge of film theory.
- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate skills in independent academic research in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Essay Two

Due: 5pm Friday 22nd May

Weighting: 40%

A 2000 word essay.

For your major essay you must choose from one of the topics/questions distributed in class and posted on iLearn. Your essay should demonstrate wide reading and in-depth critical analysis. You are expected to draw upon the weekly readings that relate to your chosen essay topic as well as other relevant academic sources.

Marking Criteria

- · Understanding and critical engagement with key readings in the unit
- · Comparison and analysis of key concepts in the unit
- · Critical analysis of relevant film/s
- Independent research within the discipline
- Use of research and reading to support the argument
- Organisation of argument including clear addressing of the question
- Clarity of communication
- · Accurate and appropriate referencing

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.
- Develop an expansive historical knowledge of film theory.
- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- · Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate skills in independent academic research in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Film Log

Due: 5pm Friday 12th June

Weighting: 25%

The film log takes the form of five brief (250 word entries). You need to write an entry for a film from *each* of the four modules (e.g. one entry on a film from Module: Key Terms Wk 1-4, one from a film shown in Module Two: Politics of Representation Wk 5-7, one from Module: Non-

Fiction Wk 8-9 and one from Module: Canons & Auteurs Wk 10-13). The fifth entry can be on any film from throughout the unit, however none of the entries should be on a film discussed in your two essays.

Each entry should consider one or two issues, of your choosing, raised by the week's readings in relation to the film. The entry should not recount the film or the reading but should offer a concise critical analysis.

Marking Criteria

- Understanding of key themes, ideas and concepts in theories of film
- · Comparison and analysis of key concepts in the unit
- · Ability to interpret and discuss film form
- Attention to themes, genres, form, or cultural context of specific films
- · Use of readings to support claims
- Organisation of film log, including at least five entries with an entry from each of the four modules (with none of the entries replicating topics covered in essay one or essay two).
- Clarity of communication
- Accurate and appropriate referencing

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.
- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- · Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Delivery and Resources

Classes

The unit consists of a 4 hour face-to-face teaching block each week. This block will usually consist of; 1×1 hour tutorial, 1×2 hour screening and 1×1 hour lecture. Attendance and participation in weekly tutorials will account for 15% of a student's final grade.

The timetable for classes can be found on the MQC Student Portal at: http://student.mqc.edu.a
u/

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

The required readings for the course will be contained in the MAS205 Unit Reader which can be purchased from City Campus Reception on Level 2. Additional recommended readings can be found on the unit iLearn page. A copy of all the screened films will be made available through the Library.

Technology Used and Required

Computer, DVD player

Learning and Teaching Activities

In order to participate fully in weekly tutorial discussions students are expected to have watched the previous week's film screening, listened to the previous week's lecture, and read the required tutorial readings contained in the MAS205 Unit Reader, familiarising themselves with the key concepts and arguments raised.

ASSESSMENTS

You must complete all components of this course in order to pass the unit. Work submitted late without extension and/or proof of illness or serious misadventure (this does not include having to work) will incur a **5% penalty for each day** after the due date.

Assignment Submissions

All written work must be submitted to Turnitin, via the link on iLearn. Please make sure your full name, student number and tutor's name appears on the first page of your document. Please record your lecturer's email address at the beginning of semester and questions about MAS205 should be directed to them. Students should ensure that they can receive emails sent to their MQ email address.

Unit Schedule

For detailed schedule including set and recommended readings please refer to iLearn.

MODULE ONE: KEY TERMS

Week 1: Introduction to MAS205, Film and its Contexts (no tutorial)

Sunset Blvd. (Billy Wilder: 1950: USA: 110mins)

Week 2: Film and Narrative (tutorials begin)

Fargo (Joel Coen: 1996: USA: 98mins)

Week 3: Film and Genre

Per un pugno di dollari (A Fistful of Dollars) (Sergio Leone: 1964: Italy: 99mins)

Week 4: Film and Sound

Psycho (Alfred Hitchcock: 1960: USA: 109mins)

MODULE TWO: POLITICS OF REPESENTATION

Week 5: Australian Contexts

Samson & Delilah (Warwick Thornton: 2009: Australia: 100mins)

Week 6: Feminism on Film

Orlando (Sally Potter: 1992: UK: 94mins)

Week 7: Mental Illness in Movies

Silver Linings Playbook (David O. Russell: 2012: USA: 122mins)

MODULE THREE: NON-FICTION FILM, REALITY & THE REAL

Week 8: Modes of Documentary

The Thin Blue Line (Errol Morris: 1988: USA: 103mins)

Week 9: Diary Films and Autobiography

Tarnation (Jonathon Caouette: 2003: USA: 88mins)

MODULE FOUR: CANONS & AUTEURS

Week 10: Critiquing Canons

Citizen Kane (Orson Welles: 1941: USA: 119mins)

Week 11: The French New Wave

À bout de souffle (Breathless) (Jean-Luc Godard: 1960: France: 90mins)

Week 12: Art Cinema

Blow-Up (Michelangelo Antonioni: 1966: UK: 111mins)

Week 13: Auteurs and Wong Kar Wai

Chung Hing sam lam (Chungking Express) (Wong Kar Wai: 1994: Hong Kong: 98mins)

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grading Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the <u>Learning and Teaching Category</u> of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mg.edu.au/support/student conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in <a href="extraction-color: blue} eStudent. For more information visit ask.m q.edu.au.

Academic Honesty

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty and schedule of penalties that will apply to breaches of the Academic Honesty Policy can be found at: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic honesty/policy.html

If you are unsure about how to incorporate scholarly sources into your own work, please speak to your Lecturer or the Student Services team well in advance of your assessment.

Grades

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

- · HD High Distinction
- · D Distinction

- · CR Credit
- · P Pass
- F Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html

For further information, please refer to page 71 of the 2013 Calendar of Governance, Legislation and Rules- Undergraduate Rules at

http://www.universitycouncil.mq.edu.au/pdfs/2013-Undergraduate_rules.pdf

Grade Appeals and Final Examination Script Viewing

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

http://www.city.mq.edu.au/reviews-appeals.html

Special Consideration Policy

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A special consideration policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy is available at: http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

The University defines serious and unavoidable disruption to studies as resulting from an event or set of circumstances that:

- could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student;
 and
- was beyond the student's control; and
- caused substantial disruption to the student's capacity for effective study and/or the completion of required work; and
- substantially interfered with the otherwise satisfactory fulfilment of unit or course requirements; and
- was of at least three (3) consecutive days duration within a study period and/or prevented completion of the final examination.

A Special Consideration application is deemed to be valid if all the following criteria have been satisfied:

- The Special Consideration application is completed by the student and submitted online through www.ask.mq.edu.au within five (5) working days after the due date of the associated assessment task / final examination.
- The application contains supporting evidence to demonstrate the severity of the circumstance(s) and that substantial disruption has been caused to the student's capacity for effective study. (The University will not follow up on outstanding evidence, nor contact any person or body on behalf of the student. The application will be considered as submitted.)
- The original supporting documentation has been sighted by MQC reception staff within five (5) working days after the due date of the associated assessment task.
- Where the particular circumstances are medical in nature, a *Professional Authority Form* including the health professional's Medicare Provider Number is included. (If a *Professional Authority Form* cannot be obtained, an original medical certificate indicating the severity (serious / not serious) and impact of the circumstances must be included with the application.)
- Where the particular circumstances are non-medical in nature, appropriate supporting
 evidence indicating the severity (serious / not serious) and impact of the circumstances
 is included with the application.
- The student was performing satisfactorily in the unit up to the date of the unavoidable disruption. (If a student's work in the unit was previously unsatisfactory, subsequent unavoidable disruption will not overcome the fact that the earlier work was unsatisfactory).

Unacceptable grounds for Special Consideration

The University has determined that some circumstances are not acceptable grounds for claiming Special Consideration. These grounds include, but are not limited, to:

- routine demands of employment
- routine family problems such as tension with or between parents, spouses, and other people closely involved with the student
- difficulties adjusting to university life, to the self-discipline needed to study effectively,
 and the demands of academic work
- stress or anxiety associated with examinations, required assignments or any aspect of academic work
- routine need for financial support
- routine demands of sport, clubs and social or extra-curricular activities.

Acute Problems

The University defines acute problems as those involving fewer than three (3) consecutive days within a study period. In these cases, students should not apply for special consideration via ask.mq.edu.au, but contact their Unit Convenor within 5 working days of the assessment due date so that a local solution may be discussed, except where the disruption affects completion of a final examination. (If a final examination is affected, the student should submit a special consideration application via ask.mq.edu.au.)

Prior Conditions Conditions existing prior to commencing a unit of study are not grounds for Special Consideration, except in the event of unavoidable deterioration of the condition. The student is responsible for managing their workload in light of any known or anticipated problems. Students with a pre-existing disability/ chronic health condition may contact the <u>Disability Service</u> for information on available support.

In submitting a request for Special Consideration, the student is acknowledging that they may be required to undertake additional work and agreeing to hold themselves available so that they can complete any extra work as required. The time and date, deadline or format of any required extra assessable work as a result of an application for Special Consideration is not negotiable.

Attendance

All Students are required to attend at least 80% of the scheduled course contact hours each Session. Additionally MQC monitors the course progress of international students to ensure that the student complies with the conditions of their visa relating to attendance.

This minimum level of attendance includes all lectures and tutorials. Tutorial attendance will be recorded weekly. If any scheduled class falls on a public holiday this will be rescheduled as advised by your Lecturer. Attendance at any mid-Session or in-class test is compulsory unless otherwise stated.

Unavoidable non-attendance due to illness or circumstances beyond your control must be supported by appropriate documentation to be considered for a supplementary test. Other non-attendance will obtain zero for the test. You should refer to the section below on Special Consideration for more details about this.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

At any time students (or groups of students) can book our Student Advising rooms on Level 6 by emailing info@city.mq.edu.au with a day and time and nominated contact person. There are additional student study spaces available on Level 1.

Macquarie University Campus Wellbeing also has a presence on the City Campus each week. If you would like to make an appointment, please email info@city.mq.edu.au or visit their website at: http://www.campuslife.mq.edu.au/campuswellbeing

UNIWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops http://www.mq.edu.au/learningskills
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the <u>Disability Service</u> who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/hel
p/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the <u>Acceptable Use Policy</u>. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Students must use their Macquarie University email addresses to communicate with staff as it is University policy that the University issued email account is used for official University communication.

Students are expected to act responsibly when utilising Macquarie City Campus IT facilities. The following regulations apply to the use of computing facilities and online services:

- Accessing inappropriate web sites or downloading inappropriate material is not permitted.
- Material that is not related to coursework for approved unit is deemed inappropriate.
- Downloading copyright material without permission from the copyright owner is illegal, and strictly prohibited. Students detected undertaking such activities will face disciplinary action, which may result in criminal proceedings.

Non-compliance with these conditions may result in disciplinary action without further notice.

If you would like to borrow headphones for use in the Macquarie City Campus computer labs (210, 307, 311, 608) at any point, please ask at Level 2 Reception. You will be required to

provide your MQC Student ID card. This will be held as a deposit while using the equipment.

For assistance in the computer labs, please see a Lab Demonstrator (usually they can be found in Lab 311, otherwise ask at Level 2 Reception).

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

 Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.

Assessment tasks

- · Essay One
- · Essay Two
- · Film Log

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay One

- Essay Two
- Film Log

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.
- Develop an expansive historical knowledge of film theory.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- · Essay One
- Essay Two
- Film Log

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.
- Develop an expansive historical knowledge of film theory.
- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate skills in independent academic research in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.

- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- · Essay One
- · Essay Two
- Film Log

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key debates, themes and concepts in the broad field of Film Studies.
- Develop an expansive historical knowledge of film theory.
- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate skills in independent academic research in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- · Essay One
- · Essay Two
- Film Log

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in

order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- · Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Demonstrate skills in independent academic research in the discipline, including identifying and using appropriate articles in academic journals.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- · Essay One
- · Essay Two
- Film Log

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Evaluate and distinguish between theoretical positions on film practices and texts.
- Analyse films critically according to themes, genres, form and cultural contexts.
- Evaluate critically and analyse film texts and theories of film in both written form and in verbal discussions.
- Communicate in a manner conforming to accepted academic standards in both written and spoken form

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Essay One

- Essay Two
- Film Log