MAS 304
Screens, Images, Ideas
S2 Day 2016

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor/Lecturer
Andrew Frost
andrew.frost@mq.edu.au
By appointment

Tutor
Intan Paramaditha
intan.paramaditha@mq.edu.au
By appointment

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
39cp

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit analyses issues in film culture by screenings and discussion of fictional and non-
fictional media including films, television and online content from a range of countries. The unit
examines contemporary and historical examples and their relation of philosophical concepts,
critical and genre theory and cultural contexts.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are
available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

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

- Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
- Develop an expanded historical knowledge of genre film and theory
- Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
- Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films
- Produce and communicate work in a manner consistent with accepted academic
Assessment Tasks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>As Scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Essay</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>November 2, 2016</td>
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Online Quizzes

Due: As Scheduled  
Weighting: 45%

In MAS304 it's important to understand key debates, theoretical positions and concepts in the study of science fiction genre cinema.

To do this we have divided weekly readings into two categories: required readings and recommended readings.

**Required readings** are those texts that offer a critical analysis and/or interpretation of a film and/or discuss critical ideas and concepts specific to science fiction and cinema and while they may not discuss the films in the unit directly they are of central importance to understanding the genre.

**Recommended readings** are texts that support and expand the context of the films, their critical reception and place in genre history, and include interviews, scene analysis, reviews etc.

*To assess your understanding and reading of required readings, and your understanding of lecture content, you will undertake three online multiple choice quizzes accessed via iLearn. These are worth 15% of your total mark each, 45% in total.

The questions will be based on critical and core readings and on lecture content and they will be scheduled in weeks four, eight and 12 of the semester.

Students will be notified by a unit announcement on iLearn when the quizzes are available for completion.

Marking Criteria

- Ability to recognise the correct answer[s] to quiz questions
- Demonstrated understanding and comprehension of unit readings and lecture content

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
- Develop an expanded historical knowledge of genre film and theory
- Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
Major Essay
Due: November 2, 2016
Weighting: 55%

Your final assignment will be an Academic Essay:

You will be required to write an essay of 2,000 words [not including footnotes or bibliography] that responds to the following task:

Choosing one film from the unit, give a critical account of the film's key themes, its concepts and ideas and how these aspects are conveyed by the film itself, with reference to its mise en scene, narrative structure, and place within genre theory.

Your essay will demonstrate an understanding of one or more of the central concepts from the unit, as well as your ability to apply these concepts to the film you have researched and to films included in the unit schedule, while referencing at least four of the required unit readings, and three academic readings from outside it. [Non-academic citations are not acceptable].

Your essay will be referenced using the Harvard Inline Referencing System and will include a list of referenced works on the last page of the essay. [References cited will only be those cited in the text of your essay]. The essay should include your name and student number on the top of the first page, be double line spaced and justified to the left hand side of the page.

Please submit your essay to Turnitin via the link on the unit iLearn page by 11.58pm on the due date.

Marking Criteria

- Evidence of a depth of research and reading
- Demonstration of further research beyond unit readings
- Demonstrate critical engagement with central concepts and theory of the course and be able to apply these to your film example[s].
- Present a clearly structured essay and well-supported argument
- Ability to contextualise the film as part of film history
- Ability to relate the film to one (or more) of the concepts evident in the core readings
- The use of academic Harvard inline referencing

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
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- Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films
- Produce and communicate work in a manner consistent with accepted academic
Delivery and Resources

CLASSES

Screenings: Tuesdays, 9.30am-12pm, Y3A T1

Lectures: Tuesdays, 3-4pm, Y3A T1

Tutorials: Please check with MQ Timetables for the time and location of your tutorial.

ATTENDANCE

Students are required to attend each screening and tutorials.

REQUIRED READINGS

Required readings will be available through the Library website, linked from the unit iLearn page.

Week 1:

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Week 2:

Required Readings:

Istvan Csicsery-Ronay, Jr. ‘Science Fiction and Empire’, Science Fiction Studies, Vol. 30, No. 2, Social Science Fiction (Jul., 2003), pp. 231-245

Recommended Reading


**Week 3:**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Week 4:**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 5:**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Week 6:**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Week 7:**

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Reading:**


**Week 8:**

**Required Readings:**


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Recommended Reading:


Week 9:

Required Readings:


Recommended Reading:


Week 10:

Required Readings:


Joseph G. Kickasola, ‘Leading with the ear: Upstream Color and the cinema of respiration’, Film Quarterly, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 60–74


Recommended Reading:


Week 11:

Required Readings


TECHNOLOGIES USED AND REQUIRED

Unit lectures will be delivered as videos online and will be accessible via iLearn. Details on readings, assessments and screenings will be available on iLearn. Students are expected to regularly check iLearn and their MQ email addresses for announcements.

Late Submissions

Tasks 10% or less. No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved.

Tasks above 10%. Students who submit late work without an extension will receive a penalty of 10% per day. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved.

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. All written work should be double spaced and justified to the left of the page.

Please record your tutor's email address at the beginning of semester and questions about MAS 304 should first be directed to the unit convenor.

Students should ensure that they can receive emails sent to their MQ email address.

Unit Schedule

CONTENT ADVISORY

Please be advised: some of the films in the unit contain graphic on-screen violence, suggested off screen violence and disturbing themes. Although the films are widely available on DVD and online - and have been screened in Australian cinemas and on television - some viewers may find aspects of these films disturbing.


Week 5. Feminisms – Alien [Dir. Ridley Scott, UK/US, 1979]

Week 6. Genre Blending and Post Modern SF – Videodrome, [Dir. David Cronenberg, Canada, 1983]

Week 7. Cyberpunk and The Science Fiction City – Kokaku Kidotai [Ghost In The Shell], [Dir. Mamouri Oshii, Japan, 1995]


Week 10. At The Limits of Genre - Upstream Colour [Dir. Shane Carruth, US, 2013]

Week 11. Timeslips – Predestination [Dir. Michael & Peter Spierig, Australia, 2014]

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


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) of Policy Central.

### Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.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 eStudent. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

### Additional information


Information is correct at the time of publication.

### Student Support

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

### Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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**

### Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

### Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.
Graduate Capabilities

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

• Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
• Develop an expanded historical knowledge of genre film and theory
• Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
• Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films

Assessment tasks

• Online Quizzes
• Major Essay

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

• Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
• Develop an expanded historical knowledge of genre film and theory
• Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
• Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films
• Produce and communicate work in a manner consistent with accepted academic standards

Assessment tasks

• Online Quizzes
• Major Essay

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

• Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
• Develop an expanded historical knowledge of genre film and theory
• Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
• Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films
• Produce and communicate work in a manner consistent with accepted academic standards

Assessment tasks

• Online Quizzes
• Major Essay

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 outcomes

• Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
• Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films
• Produce and communicate work in a manner consistent with accepted academic standards
Assessment task

• Major Essay

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

• Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
• Develop an expanded historical knowledge of genre film and theory
• Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
• Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films
• Produce and communicate work in a manner consistent with accepted academic standards

Assessment tasks

• Online Quizzes
• Major Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
• Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
• Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films

Assessment tasks

• Online Quizzes
Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**

- Major Essay

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**

- Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
- Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films

**Assessment tasks**

- Online Quizzes
- Major Essay

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**

- Understand the main debates relevant to a specific sub-region of film studies
- Develop an expanded historical knowledge of genre film and theory
- Develop skills in film-critical research and film-textual analysis
- Evaluate and appreciate different stylistic modes of writing about films
• Produce and communicate work in a manner consistent with accepted academic standards

Assessment tasks

• Online Quizzes
• Major Essay

Changes from Previous Offering

The unit has been developed to reflect a new course focus: the evolution of science fiction genre cinema since 1950, with reference to the critical study of genre theory and its relationship to films included in the unit, the study of *mise-en-scene*, and to a consideration of the modes of mainstream and independent film production. New course readings have been developed to reflect this focus. Assessment tasks have also been simplified to online quizzes and a final assignment.