

BA PROGRAMME
AMERICAN STUDIES
 2ND YEAR OF STUDY, 1ST SEMESTER

COURSE TITLE	CULTURAL STUDIES 2: THE LANGUAGE OF FILM
COURSE CODE	SA2131
COURSE TYPE	full attendance
COURSE LEVEL	1st cycle (BA)
YEAR OF STUDY, SEMESTER	2 nd year of study, 1 st semester
NUMBER OF ECTS CREDITS	6
NUMBER OF HOURS PER WEEK	3 (2 lecture hours + 1 seminar hour)
NAME OF LECTURE HOLDER	Dr. Veronica Popescu, Lecturer
NAME OF SEMINAR HOLDER	Dr. Veronica Popescu, Lecturer
PREREQUISITES	Advanced level of English
A	GENERAL AND COURSE-SPECIFIC COMPETENCES
	<p>General competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The ability to comment on a film scene from a narratological perspective → The ability to contextualise, reframe, and make connections among various cultural phenomena, as reflected in a work of art → The ability to do independent research and to prepare a presentation on a given topic <p>Course-specific competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → The ability to use concepts and theoretical approaches specific to cultural studies → The ability to make connections between historic events and cultural paradigm shifts and the film productions in a given moment of Hollywood history → The ability to apply the interpretive and critical thinking skills from literature classes in film analysis
B	LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>At the end of this class students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Describe a film scene from the point of view of cinematography (camera work, framing, types of shots, mise en scène, cinematic point of view), use of editing/montage, of special effects, acting, use of music and special uses of color, etc. → Use the specific terms to analyse the various elements of film language and how they work together to create atmosphere, render a certain mood, and elicit a certain emotional response from the viewers → Analyse, with an eye for detail, certain film scenes or an entire film from various perspectives (aesthetic, technical, cultural)
C	LECTURE CONTENT
	<p>Introductory course: film as art vs. film as entertainment. The experience of film viewing; “reading” films. Literary analysis and film analysis. 2. The birth of American cinema. Cinema as a form of entertainment highly dependent on technological development. The establishment of film as art. The transition from silent cinema to the talkies and the rise of Hollywood. The business aspects of film industry and the importance of the studio in the Studio Era and since the late 1970s. 3. Key aspects of film language: visual design and cinematography. Types of shots and point of view in film. The importance of cinematography in film as art. 4. Key aspects of film language: editing and special effects. Editing vs. montage. The Kuleshov effect. 5. Key aspects of film language: montage and narrative construction; manipulation of time and space; visual metaphors 6. Key aspects of film language: color in the modern film. Special uses of color (e.g. color symbolism, special effects). 7. Key aspects of film language: sound in film. Dialogue and film sound. 8. Key aspects of film language: film music. The importance of music for the emotional experience of film. Intradiegetic and extradiegetic film music. Special uses of music in film. The Musical as a particular case of film music use. 9. Film acting vs. stage acting. Acting styles (the formalist style vs. the Method/Stanslavsky style) 10-12. The</p>

	director's style. Auteur theory. Three great American directors (Stanley Kubrick, Martin Scorsese, and Quentin Tarantino) 13. Analysis of the entire film. The balance between a film's cultural and historical relevance and its artistic qualities. 14. Concluding remarks. Discussion of the exam format and topics.
D	RECOMMENDED READING FOR LECTURES
	Boggs, Joseph A., Dennis V. Petrie – The Art of Watching Films . Seventh Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill. 2008. Benyahia, Sarah Casey, Freddie Gaffney, John White (eds.) – AS Film Studies. The Essential Introduction . London/New York: Routledge. 2006. Butler, Andrew M. – The Pocket Essential Film Studies . Harpenden, Herts: Pocket Essentials. 2005. Mast, Gerald, Kevin Bruce (eds.) – A Short History of the Movies . Sixth Edition. Needham Heights, MA: Allen & Bacon. 1996 (1971).
E	SEMINAR CONTENT
	1. Film language in time: scenes from various major films: <i>The Birth of a Nation</i> (1915), dir. by D. W. Griffith; <i>Citizen Kane</i> (1940), dir. by Orson Welles, <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (1968), dir. by Stanley Kubrick, and <i>Life of Pi</i> (2012), dir. by Ang Lee. 2. Discussions of various scenes from films to illustrate the theoretical information on visual design and cinematography. Practicing the identification of camera angles, types of shots, cinematic point of view, etc. 3. Screening and discussion of various scenes illustrating the difference between editing and montage. 4. Class presentations: special uses of music and sound in film. (Students are expected to bring their own examples and present them to class.) 5. Class presentations: different approaches to film acting (the formalist style vs. the Method/Stanislawsky style). (Students are expected to bring their own examples and present them to class.) 6. Screening and discussion of key scenes from <i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> (1968), dir. by Stanley Kubrick, and <i>Taxi Driver</i> (1976), dir. by Martin Scorsese. 7. Screening of Barry Jenkins's <i>Moonlight</i> (2016) Nota bene: The films selected for in-class screenings are subject to change, owing to new releases and current debates.
F	RECOMMENDED READING FOR SEMINARS
	Boggs, Joseph A., Dennis V. Petrie – The Art of Watching Films . Seventh Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill. 2008. Useful websites: Internet Movie Database (IMDb) http://us.imdb.com/ Tim Dirk's filmsite http://www.filmsite.org/genres.html Rotten Tomatoes http://www.rottentomatoes.com/ David Bordwell's website on cinema http://www.davidbordwell.net/blog/ A Basic Glossary of Film Terms (adapted from S. Howard and J. Monaco) http://www.springhurst.org/cinemagic/glossary_terms.htm
G	EDUCATION STYLE
LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS	Frontal teaching, class discussions; individual study
ASSESSMENT METHODS	Class participation + in-class oral presentation (50 %) + written exam (50%)
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION	English