

# City University of Hong Kong

## Information on a Course offered by Department of English with effect from Semester A in 2012 / 2013

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### Part I

**Course Title** Introduction to English Film Studies

**Course Code** EN2808

**Credit Unit** 3 units

**Level** B3

**Medium of Instruction** English

**Course Duration** 1 semester

**Pre-requisites** N/A

**Pre-cursors** N/A

**Equivalent Courses** N/A

**Exclusive Courses** GE3401 Exploring English Cinema

### Part II

#### 1. Course aims:

This course aims to provide students with the basic concepts and terminology needed to critically understand and analyze English language films, film history, theory and criticism, and the ability to apply this knowledge to written analyses of films and film excerpts.

#### 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Weighting (if applicable)
1	Use and apply basic film concepts and terminology to discover the technical and thematic aspects of English language films	n/a

2	Examine multiple interpretive possibilities of and formulate arguments about English language films.	n/a
3	Apply critical skills when viewing English language films.	n/a
4	Describe basic approaches to film history, theory and criticism, and their major achievements.	n/a

### 3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

*(Designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)*

CILO No.	TLA No.	Teaching and Learning Activities	Hours/Week (if applicable)
1, 2, 4	1	The instructor delivers interactive multimedia lectures in which the use of film terminology, analytic techniques, and film history, theory and criticism are explained and illustrated.	
1-4	2	Students watch films and film excerpts and discuss these using the appropriate terminology and concepts.	
1-4	3	Students formulate, discover and discuss various interpretations of films and the implications of these interpretations, including their social, cultural and historical contexts.	
1-4	4	Students participate in two guided, small-group workshops to discuss the form and content of each paper (scene and film analysis), and develop strategies for writing the papers.	

### 4. Type of Assessment Activities

*(Designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)*

CILO No.	AA No	Assessment Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILOs 1-3	1	<b>Essay:</b>  Students will write a scene analysis paper, applying the skills of close film analysis and essay writing learned in class.	30%	Individual work; assessed individually
CILOs 1-3	2	<b>In-class quizzes:</b>  Quizzes will measure understanding of the material presented in the readings, lectures, or class discussions.	15%	Individual work; assessed individually

CILOs 1-3	3	<p><b>Film response journal and participation:</b></p> <p>The assigned readings and films will be discussed and engaged critically and creatively. Short in-class writing assignments will promote active learning. Students will keep a journal of in-class writing activities.</p>	25 %	Individual work; assessed individually
CILOs 1-3	4	<p><b>Creative video production assignment:</b></p> <p>In groups, students will create a 5-minute video in English, seeking to apply the basic concepts of film form learned in the course, and will present the video in class. Each student will then write a personal reflection paper that critically reflects on the process and production of the group video.</p>	30%	Group work; assessed as a group and individually

## 5. Grading of student achievement

(Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations)

Grading pattern: Standard (A+, A, A-....F). Grading is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities.

### Grading criteria for the scene analysis paper

Grade	Descriptor
<b>A</b>	Critically and accurately analyzes multiple aspects of the scene in question (e.g. elements of narrative; <i>mise-en-scène</i> ; cinematography; acting; editing; sound) using appropriate terminology, presenting a cogent argument supported with ample and relevant evidence. Excellent organization and language.
<b>B</b>	Accurately analyzes multiple aspects of the scene in question (e.g. elements of narrative; <i>mise-en-scène</i> ; cinematography; acting; editing; sound) using appropriate terminology, supported with sufficient and relevant evidence.
<b>C</b>	Accurately analyzes multiple aspects of the scene in question (e.g. elements of narrative; <i>mise-en-scène</i> ; cinematography; acting; editing; sound) using sufficient terminology and supported by sufficient evidence.
<b>D</b>	Analyzes only a few aspects of the scene in question (e.g. elements of narrative; <i>mise-en-scène</i> ; cinematography; acting; editing; sound) with some accuracy, using limited appropriate terminology, and minimal relevant evidence.
<b>F</b>	Unable to analyse the scene in question and express ideas using appropriate terminology.

### Grading criteria for the film analysis paper

Grade	Descriptor
A	Strong argumentative thesis statement that is appropriate for the film in question and supported with ample appropriate evidence from the film. Excellent organization and language.
B	Good argumentative thesis statement that is appropriate for the film in question and supported with appropriate evidence from the film.
C	Sufficient argumentative thesis statement that is appropriate for the film in question and supported with sufficient and appropriate evidence from the film.
D	Weak argumentative thesis statement that is somewhat appropriate for the film in question and supported with minimal and not entirely appropriate evidence from the film.
F	Thesis statement not argumentative or appropriate for the film in question, and not supported by appropriate evidence from the film.

### Part III

**Keyword syllabus:** principles of film form; film genres; elements of narrative; *mise-en-scène*; cinematography; acting; editing; sound; film history, theory and criticism

#### Recommended Readings

- Barsam, Richard and Dave Monahan. (2010). *Looking at movies: An introduction to film* (3rd edition). New York: Norton.
- Boggs, Joseph M. and Dennis W. Petrie. (2008). *The art of watching films* (7th edition). Boston: McGraw Hill.
- Bordwell, David, and Kristine Thompson. (2009). *Film art: An introduction*. New York: McGraw Hill.
- Bywater, Tim and Thomas Sobchak. (1989). *Introduction to film criticism: Major critical approaches to narrative film*. London: Longman.
- Desmond, John M. and Peter Hawkes. (2006). *Adaptation: Studying film and literature*. Boston: McGraw Hill.
- Geiger, Jeffrey and R. L. Rutsky (Eds.). (2005). *Film analysis: A reader*. New York: Norton.
- Giannetti, Louis. (2010). *Understanding movies* (12th edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Hill, John and Pamela Church Gibson (Eds.). (2000). *Film studies: Critical approaches*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Monaco, James. (2009). *How to read a film: Movies, media and beyond* (4th edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Pramaggiore, Maria and Tom Wallis. (2008). *Film: A critical introduction* (2nd edition). Boston: Pearson.
- Prince, Stephen. (2010). *Movies and meaning: An introduction to film* (5th edition). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Sikov, Ed. (2009). *Film studies: An introduction*. New York: Columbia University Press.