

SM5306: CINEMATIC ARTS WORKSHOP

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Cinematic Arts Workshop

Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

Course Number

5306

Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

The course aims to train students to translate ideas, thoughts and feelings into cinematic expressions. By utilizing a series of in-class exercises and assigned projects, the course is designed to let students develop their own cinematic ideas and

expressions through an understanding and exploration of narrativity, time, space, colour and movement. The primary goal of this course is to stimulate students in finding their own artistic styles, visions and voices through a series of carefully designed exercises.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Gain a deeper and more critical perspective of cinematic arts		x	x	
2	Acquire the skill and technique of cinematic production, from pre-production to post-production			x	
3	Being able to externalize ideas, thoughts and feelings through cinematic expressions				x
4	Develop an original personal cinematic style and vision		x	x	x
5	Experience the relation between cinematic form and content		x		

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures and screenings	Explain key concepts and themes of cinematic arts	1	
2	Workshops	Introduce filmmaking skills and techniques from pre-production to post-production	2	
3	Production exercises	Group projects to practice and creatively apply filmmaking skills and techniques	2, 3	
4	Individual project production	Short film project to refine skills and develop original personal cinematic expression	2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Class performance and participation	1, 2	30	-	No
2	Exercises and projects progression	2, 3, 4	10	-	Yes
3	Group Project presentation	2, 3, 4	30	-	Yes
4	Individual Project presentation	5	30	-	Yes

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Class Participation and Performance (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

This assessment task reviews students' participation and performance in discussions and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of 'negotiation', the sign of discovery, lies in students' pre-class preparation and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points

In-depth pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials

Interpret others' views with an open mind and ready to negotiate

Readiness to share personal insight via analysis and synthesis with informed views

Constructively critical, thus facilitating the discovery of new issues

Good

(B+, B, B-) Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points

Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials

Interpret opinions effectively

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Attentive in in-class participation, listening with comprehension, but only infrequently contributing

Adequate pre-class preparation but little familiarity with peer reports and other materials

Fair ability in interpreting opinions

Marginal

(D) Unmotivated to participate in class discussion or comment on other people's views

Little pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials
Poor ability in interpreting opinions

Failure

(F) Unwilling to participate in class discussion and comment on other points, even when requested by the teacher
No pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials
Minimal ability in interpreting opinions

Assessment Task

Project (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, build up argument and analysis. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key concepts, assumptions and debates
Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative
Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with distinct themes and thesis
Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize
Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools
Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights

Good

(B+, B, B-) Firm grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts and assumptions
Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand
Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently
Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Comprehensive grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts
Fair organization, weak structure, adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand
Relevant points to the subject matter, fair ability to interpret opinions
Unorganized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic

Marginal

(D) Loose grasp of materials, cannot explain key concepts
Poor organization and structure, weak content, limited use of resources
Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
Insufficient and/or unorganized bibliography

Failure

(F) Poor grasp of materials
No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources
Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions
Irrelevant bibliography

Assessment Task

Project Presentation (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show their co-operation to conduct a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of 'discovery' lied in a student's self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter
 Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and systematic exposition with a strong sense of narrative
 Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management
 Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize

Good

(B+, B, B-) Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter
 Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition
 Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, fluent expression and diction, fair time-management

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate content with comprehensive grasp of the material demonstrating basic knowledge of the subject matter
 Fair organization, weak structure and composition
 Fair presentation skills: acceptable pronunciation, expression and diction, fair time-management

Marginal

(D) Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter
 Poor organization, structure and composition
 Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, poor time-management

Failure

(F) Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter
 No organization, structure or/and composition
 Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, minimal time-management

Assessment Task

Class Participation and Performance (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

This assessment task reviews students' participation and performance in discussions and peer critique during the tutorial sessions. The evidence of 'negotiation', the sign of discovery, lies in student' pre-class preparation and interpersonal sensitivity to his/her peer members.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Active in-class participation, positive listening, strong ability to stimulate class discussion and comment on other points
 In-depth pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials
 Interpret others' views with an open mind and ready to negotiate
 Readiness to share personal insight via analysis and synthesis with informed views
 Constructively critical, thus facilitating the discovery of new issues

Good

(B+, B) Active in-class participation, positive listening, ability to initiate class discussion and comment on other points
 Adequate pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials
 Interpret opinions effectively

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Unmotivated to participate in class discussion or comment on other people's views
Little pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials
Poor ability in interpreting opinions

Failure

(F) Unwilling to participate in class discussion and comment on other points, even when requested by the teacher
No pre-class preparation and familiarity with peer reports and other materials
Minimal ability in interpreting opinions

Assessment Task

Project (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, build up argument and analysis. The threshold of 'discovery' lied in a student's self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent grasp of research material, able to explain key concepts, assumptions and debates
Rigorous organization, coherent structure, distinct thesis, properly argued with strong narrative
Insightful interpretation of the subject matter with distinct themes and thesis
Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize
Ability to approach a text or a theme using a variety of theories and analytical tools
Strong bibliography suggesting breadth and depth of coverage and informed insights

Good

(B+, B) Firm grasp of materials, able to explain key concepts and assumptions
Reasonable organization, balanced structure, adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand
Clear ideas which keep to the point, clear-cut subject, ability to interpret opinions independently
Organized bibliography which can be utilized in accordance with the topic

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Loose grasp of materials, cannot explain key concepts
Poor organization and structure, weak content, limited use of resources
Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
Insufficient and/or unorganized bibliography

Failure

(F) Poor grasp of materials
No organization and structure, inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources
Irrelevant points to the subject matter, minimal ability to interpret opinions
Irrelevant bibliography

Assessment Task

Project Presentation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

This assessment will grade on content and fluency of presentation. Students should show their co-operation to conduct a well-organized presentation with their own argument and evidence from readings and notes. The threshold of 'discovery'

lied in a student's self initiatives to conduct additional research and to personalize theories for her/his personal daily experience.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Rich, informative content, excellent grasp of the material with in-depth and extensive knowledge of the subject matter

Rigorous organization, coherent structure, and systematic exposition with a strong sense of narrative

Superior presentation skills: distinct pronunciation, fluent expression and appropriate diction, exact time-management

Critical analysis with insightful comments opening up new issues, or suggesting the ability to theorize

Good

(B+, B) Adequate content with firm grasp of the material that informs the audience on a subject matter

Reasonable organization, balanced structure and composition

Good verbal communication: comprehensible pronunciation, fluent expression and diction, fair time-management

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Weak content, loose grasp of the general ideas with some knowledge of the subject matter

Poor organization, structure and composition

Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, poor time-management

Failure

(F) Inadequate content, fail to identify the general ideas with knowledge of the subject matter

No organization, structure or/and composition

Poor presentation skills: marginal pronunciation, expression and diction, minimal time-management

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Visualizations, Principles of Cinematography, Video Camera Operation, Montage Theory, Post-production, Sound recording, Sound design for cinema, Narrative cinema, Non-fictional cinema

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Arnheim, Rudolf. Art and Visual Perception: A Psychology of the Creative Eyes Berkeley California: University of California Press, 1974.
2	Ascher, Steve. The filmmaker's handbook: a comprehensive guide for the digital age New York, NY: Plume Books, 2007.
3	Belton, John et al (ed). Film Sound: theory and practice New York: Columbia University Press, 1985.
4	Caroll, Noel. Theorizing the Moving Image Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.
5	Malkiewicz, J. Kris. Cinematography: the third edition New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bordwell, David, and Thompson, Kristin. Film Art: An Introduction Reading, Massachusetts: Addison-Wesley 1979
2	Chion, Michel. Audio-Vision: Sound on Screen NY: Columbia University Press 1994.
3	O' Pray, Michael. Avant-Garde Film: Forms, Themes and Passions London: Wallflower Press 2003.