English 360: Fall 2013: World Cinema

Meetings:
M-W 2-3:40 Class meeting in L & L 247
M 3:45-4:45 Film Screening in L & L 422

Instructor: Dr. Liahna Armstrong
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Office phone: x. 3178
Office hours: Mon 4:45-4:30; Wed 1-2; and by appointment

Texts:
There is no textbook for the course. Our texts are the international films viewed during the quarter, along with periodic handouts or electronic documents.

Course description:
This course is designed to provide students with an overview of important national cinematic cultures in the late twentieth- and early twenty-first centuries. We will begin with a close look at traditional, mainstream Hollywood film, and then examine a number of other international cinemas in order to gain an understanding of the ways in which other international societies use cinema both to examine their own cultural mores and to affirm or challenge Hollywood norms. We will focus on recent cinema.

Learner Outcomes:
By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to successfully:

- Demonstrate a comprehension of the major styles, trends, themes, and directors of a range of world cinematic cultures.
- Show a knowledge of particular representative films from each of those countries.
- Exhibit an understanding of how such films represent a window into the cultures that produced them.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways various international filmmakers both utilize and challenge the traditions and aesthetic patterns of Hollywood film.
Assignments and projects:

Students will engage in a series of regular written and oral exercises, designed to enhance their familiarity with the concepts and vocabulary of film studies and to show their ability to use those to examine and articulate meaningful insights about selected films from a range of national cinemas. In addition to reading, viewing, and discussing, the course will entail:

Written Assignments

- Weekly viewer responses (abbreviated as “VR.”). We will view films weekly on Wednesdays. Viewer responses are due by the start of class on the Monday following the screening. Students will write a brief, focused response to a question posed about the film viewed. Each week, selected students may be called upon to present the key ideas in their viewer responses orally in class.

- A take-home mid-term exam, covering the concepts, filmic terms, and cultural issues presented in the readings, the films and the discussion. Format: A series of short-essay questions.

- Reading/lecture quizzes, at least 2 during the quarter.

- Each week, after the first, a pair (or three) students will format, prepare, print off, and distribute, a precis of the film for the given week. Preparers will briefly preview the film to the class at that time.

Oral Assignments

Final project. Each student will work with a team of peers to prepare and present a final project on a topic to be identified. The project will have an oral and a written component. Teams will be formed after the midterm.

Evaluation Criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance/participation/discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short written assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class tests</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Expectations:

- Regular attendance and keeping up with reading, writing assignments, and film viewing are required of everyone. Please be on time, with cell phones and electronic devices turned off.

- Attendance at class viewings of films is mandatory unless you are excused in advance. If you must miss a viewing, you must locate a copy of the film on your own and view it before Monday’s class when we discuss the film. Please be aware that some of the films are not available by streaming. Screening is a communal event that requires proper viewing protocol from everyone: no blurtling out, no talking or distracting behavior, no facetious laughter, etc. Many of the films have delicate or emotionally profound subject
matter and require mature viewer behavior.

- Readings should be prepared carefully and must be completed by the day designated for discussion.

- Written assignments: Please submit in double-spaced hard copy in class on the day due. For in-class assignments, please write legibly.

- All work submitted in this class must be your own work. Academic dishonesty is defined in the student conduct code (http://www.cwu.edu/student-success/student-rights-and-responsibilities). Plagiarism in particular entails "buying, copying, borrowing, or otherwise using without proper credit another's ideas, evidence, examples, images, opinions, language, or other original material."

- I will wholly support students with disabilities or special needs. For assistance, consult Disability Services.

**Course Schedule:** (Abbreviation: HO=Handout)

**Week 1 (Mar 30) Introduction: The Classical Hollywood Tradition and Global Cinema**

**Week 2 (Apr 4, 6)**
Discussion: *Sabrina*

Viewing (W, Apr 6): *Secrets and Lies* (Britain, 1996)

**Week 3 (Apr 11, 13) British Film: The Constraints of Race and Class**
Discussion: *Secrets and Lies*
Reading: HO on *Secrets*
Written: VR on *Secrets* due Apr 11

Viewing: (W, Apr 13): *Run Lola Run* (Germany, 1998)

**Week 4 (Apr 18, 20) Germany: Racing from the Past**
Discussion: *Run Lola Run*
Reading: HO on *Run Lola*
Written: VR on *Run Lola* due Apr 18

Viewing: (W, Apr 20): *Merci pour le Chocolat* (France, 2000)

**Week 5 (Apr 25, 27): France: Vengeance is Mine**
Discussion: *Merci pour le Chocolat*
Reading: HO on *Merci pour le Chocolat*
Written: In-class written assignment on *Merci pour le Chocolat* (Apr 25)

Viewing: (W, Apr 27): *The Band's Visit* (Israel, 2007)
Week 6 (May 2, 4): Middle East Film (Israel): Strange Bedfellows

Discussion: *The Band’s Visit*
Reading: HO on *The Band’s Visit*
Written: VR on *The Band’s Visit* due May 2
Written: Take-home Midterm passed out May 4, due Mon, May 9, will include question on *Japanese Story*


Week 7: (May 9, 11): Australian Film: Outback Colonialism

Discussion: *Japanese Story*
Reading: HO on *Japanese Story*
Written: Take-home Midterm due May 9 in class


Week 8: (May 16, 18): Korean Film: Crime and Punishment

Discussion: *Memories of Murder*
Reading: HO on *Memories of Murder*
Written: VR on *Memories of Murder* due May 16

Viewing: Wed, May 18: *After the Wedding* (Denmark, 2006)

Week 9: (May 23, 25): Scandinavian Film (Denmark): Secrets of the Heart

Discussion: *After the Wedding*
Reading: HO, *After the Wedding*
Written: VR on *After the Wedding* (May 23)


Week 10 (Jun 1—No class Mon, May 30: Memorial Day): Polish Film: Holocaust Memories

Discussion: *Ida*
Reading: HO, *Ida*
Written: In-class written assignment on *Ida* (June 1)

Final Projects: 2 teams presenting

Week 11 (Tue, June 14, 12-2 PM)—Scheduled final exam slot

Final Projects: 3 teams presenting