



School of Arts & Science  
VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT  
ART 178  
History of Film  
Thursdays 4:30pm – 8:20pm  
Quarter 1/Fall 2014  
Young 216

## COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/art.html>

Ω Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only.  
It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records.  
You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.

### 1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	d. bradley muir		
(b)	Office Hours:	Fridays 2:00 – 3:00		
(c)	Location:	Y100		
(d)	Phone:	370-3382	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	muirb@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the artistic values and techniques in film.
2. Outline the history of film techniques and narrative structures.

### 3. Required Materials

- (a) **Text: Understanding Movies**, Louis Giannetti (Thirteenth Edition)
- (b) Access to a television monitor, DVD player and or computer/internet is essential
- (c) Recommended Books and journals Camosun library, UVic library, and Victoria Public library: **Film Art an Introduction**, David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson (any edition) **Film Comment**, **Sight and Sound**, **CineAction**, **Cineaste**, **Cinema Scope**  
Recommended web journals: **Bright Lights Film Journal**, **Slant Magazine**, **Senses of Film**
- (d) **For Film Project** - Access to a digital video camera, editing software, computer (Camosun library has media equipment)

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

Welcome to the course. This course sets out to deepen your understanding of film through an examination of the aesthetic, technical and cultural roots of cinema. We will explore the beginnings of cinema and its relationship to personal experience, social justice, feminism, gendered spaces and the environment.

#### Schedule and content

I have designed this course for students who are interested in visual art and culture and fascinated by film. This course is designed to help you understand methods and practices in filmmaking and to interpret images. In addition, the course should provide you with the ability to integrate the basic understandings and ideas about film and visual media and use them in your related scholarship and in your own life. In addition to traditional lectures, you will have the opportunity to participate in classroom discussions and group presentations and to write papers on selected films. \*Please note films shown and ideas discussed are mature in content.

**Schedule:** class Hours Art 178, 4:30 - 8:20, Thursdays, Young 216

- Introduction to film as an art form (1895-present)
- Styles and technical aspects (editing, camera movement, costumes and lighting)
- Film is considered historically, socially and artistically
- Relationship of film to major art movements (German Expressionism, Russian Constructivism, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, Conceptual art and Postmodernism)

## Art 190 History of Film (Fall 2013) screening and reading schedule

*This is a template, films / dates of films may change depending on course progress / evolution.* Students will be notified whenever possible of film title changes

- 1) September 04 Hello and course Introduction  
Georges Méliès **A Trip to the Moon** 1902



**The Great Train Robbery** Porter USA 1903

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- 2) September 11 Movies begin: Thomas Edison and Lumière Brothers  
**La Jetée** Chris Marker France 1962 (29min)



Text Chapter 4 Editing Part I p135 - 161  
#1 Assignment handout

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- 3) September 18 Film and Art



**un chien andalou** 1929 Luis Bunel and Salvador Dali France (17mins)  
Stan Brackhage **Moth Light** USA 1963  
**Cremaster 3 The Order** Matthew Barney USA 2002 (182mins)  
Text Chapter 4 Editing Part II p162 - 192

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- 4) September 25 **Breathless** 1960 jean-luc godard France (86 mins)



Text Chapter 1 Photography aka Cinematography p01 – 45  
#1 Assignment due

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- 5) October 02 **Midnight Cowboy** John Schlesinger USA 1969



Text Chapter 2 Mise En Scene p46 - 94  
#2 Assignment handout

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- 6) October 09 **Do the Right Thing** Spike Lee USA 1989 (120mins)



Text Chapter 5 Sound p193 - 231 #3 Assignment handout

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- 7) October 16 **Citizen Kane** Orson Wells USA 1941 (119mins)



Text Chapter 8 Story p327 - 354  
#2 Assignment due / Handout Assignment 3

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8) October 23 **The True Meaning of Pictures** Jennifer Baichwal Canada 2002 (71min)



Text Chapter 10 Ideology p404 - 448

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9) October 30 **Elephant** Gus Van Sant USA 2003 (81mins)



Text Chapter 11 Critique p449 – 488

Group Session in class – outline / plan short films

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10) November 06 **Fantastic Mr. Fox** Wes Anderson USA 2009 (87mins)



Text Chapter 3 Movement p95 - 134

Assignment 3 Due / Group Session in class – outline / plan short films

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11) November 13 **Me and You and Everyone We Know** Miranda July USA 2005 (91mins)



Text Chapter 7 Dramatization p284 - 326

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12) November 20 **Dancer in the Dark** Lars von Trier Denmark 2000 (139mins)



Text Chapter 12 Synthesis Part I p490 – 500 & Chapter 8 Film Genres p354 - 367

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13) Nov 27 **The Sweet Hereafter** Atom Egoyan Canada 1997 (112mins)



Text Chapter 12 Synthesis Part II p504 - 515

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14) Dec 04 Group Film Assignments due; films screened in class  
(Films on dvd, presented by groups)

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**Date: TBA final exam, with secret film screening**

**5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting) -- all assignments are required**

(a)	Written Assignments 45%	3 written critical responses to films screened in class
(b)	Group Film Assignment 25%	December 10 required Group Film Projects 5 minute film – based on the films screened in class (Examples will be provided)
(c)	Exam 25%	Date TBA based on “secret” film screening
(d)	Attendance 5%	Attending class and participating in discussions both small and large group

**6. Grading System  
Standard Grading System (GPA)**

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

**Temporary Grades**

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

**7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course**

**LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

**STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY**

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.