

L/VC111: Introduction to 21st-Century French Cinema

Course Description:

L/VC111 looks at popular genres (comedy, thriller, animation film) and auteur cinema. It focuses on major trends in contemporary French movies and their relationships to French society such as the exploration of class, ethnic, gender and sexual identity. It analyzes the reappropriation of the national heritage, the progressive feminization of the filmmaking profession and the new presence of directors who are immigrants or native born second generation. Throughout this course, students will further develop their understanding of the methods and concepts of cinema studies.

Classwork: Two films will be assigned every week. They all have English subtitles. **Content and trigger warnings will be given for some movies and students will have the option to opt out of viewing and analysis without impact on their grades.** The class will meet twice a week. **The discussion will be in ENGLISH.** Attendance and participation will be weighted heavily in determining the final grade. Students will have to write 3 papers in ENGLISH, five double spaced pages, typed each. Grades will be based on class participation (1/3) and papers (2/3). All assignments are to be prepared for the date on which they appear in the syllabus. Late assignments will be accepted only if prior permission has been granted, a 10% deduction will apply per day.

Textbook: David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson: "Film Art: An Introduction" McGraw-Hill, 2022, 12th Edition (ISBN 9781260056082).

FALL 2023

Tentative Schedule

Week 1: September 26-29

Tuesday 26: Organizational Meeting.

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 1

Meeting 2: François Ozon: Under the Sand (Sous le sable) (2000).

Week 2: October 2-6

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 2

Meeting 1: Christophe Barratier: The Chorus (Les Choristes) (2004).

Meeting 2: Laurent Cantet: The Class (Entre les murs) (2008).

Week 3: October 9-13

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 3

Meeting 1: Thomas Lilti: Hippocrates: A diary of a French doctor (Hippocrate) (2014).

Meeting 2: Grand Corps Malade: Step by step (Patients) (2017).

Week 4: October 16-20

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 4

Meeting 1: Jacques Audiard: A Prophet (Un prophète) (2009).

Meeting 2: Cédric Jimenez: The Stronghold (BAC Nord) (2020). PAPER 1 IS DUE.

Week 5: October 23-27

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 5

Meeting 1: Nicolas Boukhrief: Made in France (L'Enquête) (2015).

Meeting 2: Olivier Nakache, Eric Toledano: Samba (2014).

Week 6: October 30-November 3

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 6

Meeting 1: Yamina Benguigui: Sisters (Soeurs) (2020).

Meeting 2: Cedric Klapisch: Someone Somewhere (Deux Mois) (2019).

Week 7: November 6-10

Reading: Textbook Chapter 7

Meeting 1: Abdellatif Kechiche: Blue is the warmest color (La Vie d'Adèle) (2013).

Meeting 2: Michel Leclerc: The Names of Love (Le Nom des gens) (2011).
PAPER 2 IS DUE.

Week 8: November 13-17

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 8

Meeting 1: Safy Nebbou: Who You Think I Am (Celle que vous croyez) (2019).

Meeting 2: Xavier Legrand: Custody (Jusqu'à la garde) (2017).

Week 9: November 20-24

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 9

Meeting 1: Jeanne Herry: In Safe Hands (Pupille) (2018).

Meeting 2: Audrey Diwan: Happening (L'événement) (2021) if class does not take place during Thanksgiving Break.

Week 10: November 27-December 1

Reading: Textbook: Chapter 10

Meeting 1: Claude Barras: My life as a Zucchini (Ma vie de Courgette) (2016).

Meeting 2: Sylvain Chomet: Triplets of Belleville (Les triplettes de Belleville) (2003).

Week 11: December 4-8

Wednesday 6: PAPER 3 IS DUE.