COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Film Studies

FHEQ Level: 4

Course Title: Introduction to Film Studies

Course Code: FLM 4200

Course Leader: John Chua

Student Engagement Hours:120Lectures:22.5Seminar / Tutorials:22.5Independent / Guided Learning:75

Semester: Fall, Spring

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course/Course Description:

This course explores film as a medium across cultural and historical contexts. It covers films in its varied form, from the first projections in the late 19th century to online distribution today. Using examples of noteworthy films, it takes an introductory examination of the most important film theories and concepts, in the process examining how ideologies and meanings are imbedded in this vibrant medium.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to:

- Consider conceptual frameworks for critically assessing issues related to the cultural production of film, including technological changes and industrial innovations.
- Introduce and discuss the major theoretical approaches in this field including genre and narrative theories, feminism, montage and associated ideologies.
- Discuss, understand and develop a critical awareness of the ways in which film production and consumption are related to issues of power in society, cultural identities, and the relationship between identity and one's place in society.

• Use a variety of resources (such as class discussions, artifacts, books, articles and the Internet) to critically engage with the theoretical approaches.

Programme Outcomes:

4A(iii); 4B(i); 4B(ii); 4B(iii); 4C(i); 4C(iii); 4D(i)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Use theoretical frameworks that will enable them to understand the processes of film production and consumption and begin to identify strengths and weaknesses between these frameworks.
- Understand how conceptions and representations of national, cultural, gendered and sexualized identities may be apparent in films.
- Critically engage with theoretical debates and relate them to cinematic experiences.
- Develop a range of general intellectual knowledge and transferable skills such as the ability to critique interpretations of filmic narratives; understand and evaluate complex arguments; and engage in clear written communication on these topics.
- Act with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key areas of film studies.

Indicative Content:

The Origins of Cinema
Narratives, Codes and Structures
Introducing Genres
Classic Hollywood
Reception Theories: Spectator, Audience and Response
Gender Trouble
National Identity and Film
Montage Theory
Alternate Forms
Animation
Documentaries

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012: .

Teaching Methodology:

The course will combine formal lectures with interactive discussion. The former will introduce the main arguments related to the debate. The latter will be encouraged through tasks, activities and presentations of motion pictures aiming to link the theoretical arguments with the analysis of cultural processes and products. We will watch mostly excerpts from key films as well as a few full length films.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

IndicativeText(s):

- Bordwell and Thompson. Film Art: an Introduction; 8th Edition. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2007)
- Bordwell, Staiger and Thompson. The Classical Hollywood Cinema: Film Style and Mode of Production to 1960. (Routledge, 1985)
- Cook, ed. *The Cinema Book*. 3rd edition (London: BFI, 2007)
- Ellis. Visible Fictions: Cinema, TV, Video. (Routledge, 1993)
- Maltby and Craven. Hollywood Cinema: An Introduction (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995)
- Mast, Cohen and Braudy, eds. Film Theory and Criticism: Introductory Readings (Oxford: OUP, 1992)
- Nelmes, Jill. Introduction to Film Studies. (London: Routledge, 2011)
- Nichols, ed. Movies and Methods, vol. 2 (University of California Press, 1985).

Please Note:	The core	and the	reference	texts wi	ill be	reviewed	at the	time (of designi	ing the se	mester
syllabus											

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or	Nature of Change	Date Approved &	Change
Minor	_	Approval Body (School	Actioned by
Change?		or LTPC)	Academic
			Registry