FRAN 335 – FALL 2017
French Cinema Since World War II
Clearihue C112 – Monday, 4:30 to 7:20pm

Instructor: Dr Emile Fromet de Rosnay (email: derosnay@uvic.ca)
Office hour for this course: Monday 3:30pm-4:20pm in CLE C252

Overview

This course will cover the cinema of France since World War II, spanning the period from the cinema of occupation to the New Wave of the late 1950s and early 1960s, to contemporary cinema. Three themes will guide this course:

1. Questions of production: what are some of the technical and economic challenges and creative responses in the films we will be watching.

2. Cinema as an artform: how is a film made and how does this change how we perceive it, what are the different cinematic and narrative techniques, how are ideas, characters and themes developed?

3. Cinema and society: (how) is a film the product and the reflection of society? What societal questions does the film take on? How do aesthetics affect these questions?

These questions can apply to any national cinema, but are particularly interesting during this period in France, since the period moves from the German occupation of France (cinema of occupation), the Algerian War, the emergence of radical movements in the 1960s, through to contemporary cinema.

The movies we will be studying are the following, amongst others:

1. Le Corbeau (Clouzot, 1943)
2. Les enfants du paradis/Children of Paradise (Carné, 1945)
3. La belle et la bête/Beauty and the Beast (Cocteau, 1946)
4. Orphée/Orpheus (Cocteau, 1950)
5. Les enfants terribles (Melville/Cocteau, 1950)
6. Bob le flambeur (Melville, 1956)
7. Mon oncle (Tati, 1958)
8. 400 coups/400 Blows (Truffaut, 1959)
9. Hiroshima mon amour (Resnais, 1959)
10. L’année dernière à Marienbad (Resnais, 1961)
11. À bout de souffle/Breathless (Godard, 1960)
12. Cléo de 5 à 7 (Varda, 1961)
13. Le Mépris/Contempt (Godard, 1963)
14. Sans toît ni loi (Varda, 1985)
15. Nikita (Besson, 1990)
17. Les Amants criminels (Ozon, 1999)
18. Holy Motors (Carax, 2012)
19. Une nouvelle amie (Ozon, 2014)
20. Franz (Ozon 2016)

Additionally, there will be screenings of period films at the Cinecenta on select dates (see the CourseSpaces page and http://www.cinecenta.com/ for details).

Classes

Each class will be structured in the following way:

1. A brief lecture ad overview of principal themes and questions, terminology etc., and providing the basic ideas for reflection during viewing.
2. Viewing the day’s film.
3. A short Break
4. Group discussion based on the ideas, themes and concepts related to the film.

Class presence is mandatory. Only valid reasons will be accepted for absences. Attendance will be taken.

Workshops

There will be 6 online workshops on CourseSpaces (i.e. twice a month): in each of these students will write a brief piece as well as comment on another student’s entry. These will be based around course concepts and questions embarked upon during group discussions. They are approximately 250 words each (including commentary: ~150 + 100 words). Detailed directions as well as evaluation criteria will be provided on CourseSpaces for each workshop. These will be due on the 1st and 3rd Friday of every month.

Course Project
A large part of coursework will be centered on a project, ending with research term paper. This work MUST be accompanied by a detailed and focused bibliography. The course project will be in 2 parts:

1. **October 13**: A brief description of exploratory work in an area of interest (350-400 words + bibliography = 5%):
   - a bibliography of about **10 items**.
   - A three-paragraph description of the area of interest, sources found, films, etc.

2. **November 10**: A detailed and developed description of project (900 words + bibliography = 10%)
   - Presenting the subject, the field of research, what has been written on the subject; detailing how the project will be undertaken: what methods you will use, what approach to the subject
   - identifying a basic problem or question that can guide your project.

3. **December 1**: Research paper (1500 words + bibliography = **15 items**) developed from parts 1 and 2 and must include a bibliography (20%).

It is expected that students do their own reading and outside viewing to explore their research area. A minimum of **15 bibliographical entries** must be included in the final part of the project. Most of these must be from peer-reviewed journals or published books. Students are allowed to consult encyclopedias like wikipedia or imdb, but these are in the common domain and provide information that is generally known. For instance, if there is a fact in a wikipedia article, that fact is usually referenced, and that reference is to be a peer-reviewed source or a generally reliable source of information. This is not to say that Wikipedia/IMDB are not good resources.

Term-papers must be **typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman 12 font**. Students must indicate the word count at the end of the last paragraph (before the bibliography). Email attachments are not acceptable. Every day late will result in a loss of **minus 5%**.

More detailed instructions and evaluation criteria for all aspects of the project will be posted on CourseSpaces.

**Final Take-Home Exam (due December 8)**
This take-home exam will consist of three parts:

1. Two film analyses using concepts and terminology from the course
2. Short questions about course concepts with examples used from the films
3. A developed long answer to an exam question provided prior to the exam deadline.

The questions for the exam will be provided on the morning of December 4 at 9am. The exam must be submitted on CourseSpaces by the deadline of December 8 at midnight. Late exams will receive a ZERO unless pre-arranged through an academic exemption administered by the University.

PLAGIARISM of any kind is absolutely forbidden. Please consult the Undergraduate Calendar for UVic’s regulations and penalties. Needless to say, you will FAIL this course if you plagiarize!

Course documents will be available on CourseSpaces. It is expected that all students keep up to date with the course calendar on CourseSpaces, especially regarding potential date changes for tests and assignments.

Films for outside viewing will be posted on CourseSpaces

Course Evaluation:

1. Presence and participation 10%
2. Workshops (6x5%): 30%
3. Project (5+10+20%): 35%
4. Final take-home Exam: 25%