Fall 2015 Cinema Studies Courses

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR PROGRAM
Part of the College’s First-Year Seminar Program, these courses do not count toward the major. Several are taught by Cinema Studies faculty, however, and in addition to providing foundational learning experiences for first-year students, they provide one means of preparation for the study of cinema.

FYSP 086 (12064). Contemporary East Asian Cinema  4 credits / 4HU, W-Int
MW 8:35-9:50 + Th 7:00-10:00 pm, H.C. Deppman
Since the 1990s, East Asian national cinemas have been popular worldwide, with actors and directors from Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan becoming household names. What defines “East Asian Cinema” and how has it become such an important phenomenon in cinema studies? We will study twelve films from across the region and pay equal attention to aesthetics, politics, and social and cultural history. Consent of instructor required. Enrollment Limit: 14 First-Year students only.

FYSP 113 (12068). Re-envisioning Russia  4 credits / 4HU, CD, W-Int
TuTh 3:00-4:15, A. Forman
What role have filmmakers played in reshaping Russian culture over the past two decades? How did they transform Soviet myths to shape new visions for the Yeltsin nineties and the Putin aughts? To what extent did they draw from classic Russian literature by Gogol, Tolstoy or Chekhov? The films and texts we will study focus on such topics as violence and crime, youth culture, Chechnya, the super rich, rural Russia, and the Soviet past. P/NP grading only. Consent of instructor required. Enrollment Limit: 14 First-Year students only.

GENERAL INTEREST COURSES
The 100- and 200-level Cinema Studies courses under this heading function in two ways: 1) to serve non-majors, and 2) to provide prospective majors with an introduction to the study of cinema. As part of the Cinema Studies major, students should take at least one General Interest Course (two are recommended) prior to taking the required CINE 290 Introduction to the Advanced Study of Cinema (see below).

This category also includes cross-referenced courses that are offered in other disciplines, such as Africana Studies, East Asian Studies, English, French, German, Hispanic Studies, History, Music History, Philosophy, Russian, and Theater (see below).

General Interest Courses count toward the Cinema Studies major as elective critical studies courses. Only one 100-level General Interest Course may count toward the major. Prerequisites for courses cross-referenced with other departments or programs are noted in the catalog section of the listing department.

CINE 116 (12368) Film Experience: The Cinematic World  4 Credits / 4HU, CD
TuTh 9:35-10:50 + Sun 1:00-4:00 + W 7:00-10:00 pm, J. Pence
A broad introduction to issues in the study of cinema. This section will examine several types of films which depict the contemporary world: those which seek to document current life; films about specific cultural locations that successfully circulate across borders; films which are about the circulation of people and representations across boundaries. Such films both reflect and model our sense of global life and experience. Enrollment Limit: 30. Field trips required.

CINE 250 (12369) French/Francophone Cinema: National Traditions, Global Horizons  4 Credits / 4HU, CD
TuTh 9:35-10:50 + M 7:00-10:30 pm + FREN 320 section Tu 11:00-12:20, G. An
This historical survey will expose students to the directors, movements, and periods that have represented French filmmaking since its beginning (i.e. Lumière, Melies, Surrealism, 1930s Poetic Realism, Occupation, New Wave, contemporary film), as well as French-language films produced in Africa and Asia. A study of the history of industrialization, cultural policy, state regulation, and colonialism will help reveal the conceptualization of French cinema as a “national cinema,” despite its international artistic heritage and audiences, and as a particular kind of interface representing
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Frenchness within and beyond France. Taught in English. Identical to FREN 320 (12358). No prerequisites but a Cinema Studies General Interest Course, or another course in French is strongly recommended. Enrollment Limit: 30.

Cross-Referenced Courses that count as General Interest Courses:

CRWR 360 (12318). Screenwriting Workshop 4 credits / 4HU, W-Adv
W 7:00-9:40 pm Dan Chaon
Students will examine the art and craft of film scripting from a writer’s perspective, focusing on both adaptation and original work. Admission based on a completed application and writing sample, due at the CRWR Program Office at 12 noon on the last day of classes. See the program website for deadlines and to download forms. Consent of instructor required. Enrollment Limit: 12. This course may also count toward the major in CINE.

EAST 206 (12093). Modern Chinese Literature and Film: The Art of Adaptation 4 credits / 4HU, CD, W-Int
MW 2:30-3:45, H.C. Deppman
This course studies Chinese film-fiction adaptation from 1984-2012 both as an aesthetic interaction between the literary and the cinematic and as a political negotiation between artists and the state. Authors and directors to include are Eileen Chang, Su Tong, Mo Yan, Stanley Kwan, Zhang Yimou, Hou Xiaoxian and others. This course may also count toward the major in CINE, CMPL, GSFS. Enrollment Limit: 25.

THEA 319F/H (12363/4). Acting & Directing for Camera 4-2 credits / 4-2HU
MWF 4:30-6:00, P. Moser
THEA 319F is a full semester course intended for students with an interest in directing narrative film; no previous acting courses required. The first module of THEA 319F will be an intensive intro course in the basics of acting and directing - mostly w/o camera - based in popular American method acting technique. Students will acquire the working knowledge, skills and confidence to work with more skilled actors.
Second module we will add cameras/sound and acting students who will take the HALF course, THEA 319H. The course will shift its focus exclusively to the adjustments required for on-camera work. Both for acting and directing. All students will collaborate on a sequence of short narrative assignments, with the full course students serving as the directors and the half course students as their actors. The course will also cover some basic mechanics of traditional narrative film such as shooting scripts, story boards, staging for the camera (esp. "continuity style") and the logistics of casting and running a shoot. Consent of instructor required. Prerequisite for THEA 319F: CINE 298 (or equivalent). Enrollment limit for THEA 319F: 6. Prerequisite for THEA 319H: THEA 200. Enrollment limit for THEA 319H: 12.

INTRODUCTORY CORE COURSES

CINE 290 Introduction to the Advanced Study of Cinema is required for all Cinema Studies majors and is a prerequisite for all advanced courses in the major (for those who declared before July 2012, CINE 299 Persistence of Vision, fulfills this requirement). Students interested in majoring in Cinema Studies should take CINE 290: 1) during the sophomore year, 2) before declaring the major, and 3) before studying abroad/away. At least one General Interest Course should be taken before CINE 290 (two are recommended). CINE 290 may not be taken in either of the final two semesters at Oberlin and still count toward the major.

290 (9963) Introduction to the Advanced Study of Cinema 4 credits / 4HU, W-Int
MWF 2:30-3:20 + Th 7:00-10:00 pm, B. Hilsabeck
This course teaches students to engage critically with cinema. They examine elements of film form, style, and technique and explore how these produce meaning. Through theoretical and critical readings they consider cinema as art, industry, technology, and politics. They study approaches to
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watching and assessing movies, concepts and contexts in cinema studies as a discipline, and film in relation to other media. And they pay special attention to writing about cinema. Enrollment limit: 20.

CINE 295 Cinematic Storytelling Workshop, a foundational course that explores narrative and its role in cinema, is not required, but students are encouraged to take it (and take it early in the major). Students are encouraged to take CINE 290 before taking CINE 295.

CINE 295 (12370) Cinematic Storytelling Workshop 4 Credits / 4HU, W-Int
MW 2:30-3:45 + Sun 7:00-10:00 pm, W.P. Day
This introductory screenwriting course explores the roles of narrative in cinema. To better understand what cinematic stories are and how they work, students will explore basic principles, methods, and techniques for composing them, paying special attention to character development and narrative structure. In addition to reading published screenplays and watching selected films, they will create their own original short screenplays. Consent of instructor required by electronic application. Enrollment limit: 12.

Production courses are not required for graduation in the major. After taking at least one General Interest Course (two are recommended), students who wish to pursue production must begin with CINE 298 Video Production Workshop I, which is a prerequisite for all advanced production courses (see Advanced Courses below for listings of advanced production courses). Students may take no more than one production course in a given semester at Oberlin (students in the Prague, Tisch, or other production programs are exempt). Production courses are selective and enroll during the first week of classes; interested students should consult with advisors and/or course instructors prior to applying for admission. Production courses require specific equipment and are assessed lab fees. In addition, students must sign and abide by a Facilities Use Contract to gain access to Cinema Studies production facilities.

CINE 298 (8975) Video Production Workshop I 4 credits / 4HU
Tu 1:30-4:30 + Sun 4:00-7:00 + W 7:00-10:00 pm, G. Pingree
This course introduces students to the practical relationships among form, style and meaning in cinema through hands-on experience with the medium's technical elements. Students will not only read about cinema but design, compose, and edit their own sequences using sound and image. Consent of instructor required by application. Enrollment Limit: 10.

APOLLO OUTREACH INITIATIVE WORKSHOP

The AOI Workshop, geared for students who are interested in learning through teaching and community involvement, is specially designed to prepare majors to participate in the Apollo Outreach Initiative (AOI). Students may enroll in the AOI Workshop as many times as they wish, but they may count it towards the major only once (either as a 200-level elective, if taken once, or as a 300-level production course, if taken more than once).

Successful completion of CINE 284F is required for students who wish to work as staff at the Apollo Outreach Initiative’s Summer Media Workshop.

CINE 284F (11943) AOI Workshop 4 credits / 4HU
CINE 284H (11944) AOI Workshop 2 credits / 2HU
F 1:30-4:30 + Th 7:00-10:00 pm, R. Brown-Orso, C. Orso
Surrounded by computers, video games, and cell phones, children often have little chance to use media to express themselves or connect with their communities. Today's kids are tomorrow's storytellers, and to become responsible citizens in a digital age they need tools to communicate through text, image, and sound. We'll explore community outreach models and media education projects, lead a video poetry residency at Langston Middle School, and prepare the Apollo Outreach Initiative's Summer Media Workshop. Enrollment limit: 15. Field trips required.
ADVANCED COURSES

Advanced Courses are classes taught by Cinema Studies faculty at the 300 level. Majors must take at least four Advanced Courses to graduate, three of which must be taught by the Cinema Studies faculty (the fourth may be from a study-away program); and at least two must be in critical studies, not production courses. Many Advanced Courses require consent of the instructor.

All graduating Cinema Studies seniors may submit senior projects in production or critical studies to be considered for award recognition at the end of their senior year.

Prerequisite for Advanced Courses that are also critical studies courses: CINE 290 or consent of instructor.

Prerequisites for Advanced Courses that are also production courses: CINE 290, CINE 298, and consent of instructor.

320 (12371). Video Production Workshop II: Documentary Production 4 Credits / 4HU
W 1:30-4:30 + Sun 4:00-7:00 + W 7:00-10:00 pm, G. Pingree
This course explores documentary form in both critical and creative ways. The class introduces students to various ways to think about and understand documentaries (in terms of structure, purpose, audience, etc.) and then gives them the opportunity to practice basic documentary production (camera, lighting, sound, non-linear editing). After engaging in various individual and small group exercises, students spend the balance of the semester working together to produce a short documentary video. Consent by instructor required by application. Enrollment limit: 12.

361 (12372) Time and the Human Condition 4 credits / 4HU
W 7:00-9:00 pm + Tu 7:00-10:00 pm, A. Zambenedetti
Through an examination of a variety of visual media, including painting, still photography, cinema, and internet art, this course explores how the “emergence of cinematic time” (Doane) has affected our perception of the human condition. Screenings will include works by Bill Viola, Godfrey Reggio, Masaki Kobayashi, Stanley Kubrick, Orson Welles, Alain Resnais, Chris Marker, and Peter Greenaway, among others. Students will be asked to read novels, 20th-century philosophical treatises, cultural studies, and film theory. Prerequisites: CINE 290 or CINE 299 or consent of instructor. Enrollment Limit: 20.

363 (11723). Bodies of Laughter: The Slapstick Film Comedy 4 credits / 4HU
MWF 11:00-11:50 + Sun 7:00-10:00 pm, B. Hilsabeck
This course will provide a thorough introduction to the historical formation and aesthetic principles of American slapstick comedy, as well as a survey of critical approaches to the genre. We will investigate the nature of laughter and the comic, as well as consider how theoretical approaches to film genre respond (or fail to respond) to the complex, mutable, and reflexive nature of the slapstick film. Prerequisites: CINE 290 or CINE 299 or consent of instructor. Enrollment Limit: 20.

PRIVATE READINGS

Private Readings are available to those who have completed introductory coursework in the Program. Students seeking to arrange Private Readings should contact professors directly.

995. Private Reading 2-4 Credits / 2-4HU
Consent of instructor required. Signed Private Reading card must be submitted to the Registrar's Office.
-01 (F: 10924; H: 10917): G. An
-02 (F: 10925; H: 10918): R. Brown-Orso
-03 (F: 10926; H: 10919): Staff
-04 (F: 10927; H: 10920): W.P. Day
-05 (F: 10928; H: 10921): J. Pence
-06 (F: 10929; H: 10922): G. Pingree