

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE

FILM 323 – QUEER CINEMA

Spring 2014

Division	School of Motion Picture Arts	
Course Name	FILM 323 – Queer Cinema	Credits: 3
Instructor		
Office		

VISION STATEMENT

The School of Motion Picture Arts is dedicated to inspiring a new generation of independent Canadian filmmakers through the fostering and mentoring of emerging talent utilizing progressive learning environments and authentic production experiences, such that graduates make valued contributions to the global media culture.

Course Format

Four hours per week, for 15 weeks.

Course Prerequisites

45 credits of 100-level or higher coursework.

General

This course examines contemporary, cross-cultural queer cinema in the mainstream studio, independent and international film industries and the relationship between queer cinema and the global film communities.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Instructional

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define queer cinema in relationship to contemporary global film industries
- Understand central critical themes in queer cinema studies including genre, gender, identity, race, politics and class
- Describe the evolution of queer cinema in a historical context
- Identify influential queer films and filmmakers

REQUIRED TEXTS

Michele Aaron, ed. New Queer Cinema: A Critical Reader. Edinburgh University Press. 2004.

Susan Hayward. Key Concepts in Cinema Studies. Any Edition (1-4). Routledge.

Additional resource materials provided by the instructor.

WEEKS 1-15**WEEK 1:**

- Defining queer cinema
- Introduction to core filmmakers and film practices

WEEK 2:

- Queer history in North America from Stonewall to AIDS to the It Gets Better Project

WEEK 3:

- Queer cinema, aesthetics and theory; narrative cinema, spectatorship and visual pleasure

WEEK 4:

- Narrative cinema from straight to strange; queer interventions in classic narrative cinema

WEEK 5:

- Queer camp; representations of queer identities and the politics of experience and sensibility
- Term Paper Outline due

WEEK 6:

- Art house and the avant-garde; identity, politics and activism in art film and experimental video

WEEK 7:

- Gender and the challenge of breadth of representation and visual pleasure
- Mid term exam

WEEK 8:

- Race, difference and spectacle; optimism and utopia in new queer cinema

WEEK 9:

- Queer world cinema; nationality, hegemony and difference

WEEK 10:

- Queer world cinema; systems of representation, cinema industries, global power and radicalism

WEEK 11:

- Queer film in Canada; Out on Screen and Out in Schools, the Toronto International Film Festival, the National Film Board and a survey of Canadian queer cinema and representations
- Term Papers due

WEEK 12:

- Assimilation and acceptance; queer images in contemporary narrative cinema and the stagnation of political challenge to conservative culture
- Student presentations of term paper research

WEEK 13:

- Transmedia and transexualities; queer identity in social media and digital platforms
- Student presentations of term paper research

WEEK 14:

- Final exam

WEEK 15:

- Final exam

ASSIGNMENTS

Term Paper Outline (5%):

Students will be required to write a proposal for their term paper based on a topic of their choice in queer cinema. The outline should be in the format of an academic thesis statement and cite one primary source for their term paper research.

Term Paper (25%):

Students will be required to write a 1500-2000 word academic essay based on their term paper outline. A minimum of two research sources are required and all reference materials are to be cited in MLA style.

Presentation of Term Paper Topic (5%):

Students will be required to do a 10 minute presentation of the core thesis and research of their term papers.

EVALUATION PROFILE

Term Paper Outline	5%
Term Paper	25%
Presentation of Term Paper Topic	5%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Participation and Attendance	10%
Total	100%

Grading Profile

A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 77-79%	C+ = 67-69%	D = 50-59%
A = 85-89%	B = 73-76%	C = 63-66%	F = 00-49%
A- = 80-84%	B- = 70-72%	C- = 60-62%	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grade), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website. Instructor course outlines (syllabus) should direct students to the Emergency Procedures posted in every classroom.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will be taken daily and will form part of the final grade (See Evaluation Profile). When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during their absence, including announcements, assigned readings and hand-outs.

PUNCTUALITY:

Punctuality is essential and forms part of the participation grade.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments must be delivered at the place and time specified by the instructor. Late assignments will only be accepted if prior approval for a late submission date has been given by the instructor.

MISSED EXAMS AND QUIZZES:
Missed exams and quizzes will be assigned a grade of zero. Students will be allowed to make up exams and quizzes only under the following conditions: if a doctor's certificate of illness is provided; if, in the case of the death of a close family member, a death certificate is provided; if approval of the instructor has been obtained.
CHEATING/PLAGIARISM:
Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's work or ideas as if they were one's own. Plagiarism is both dishonest and a rejection of the principles of scholarship. All students should familiarize themselves with the University Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism (See the University Calendar) as such behaviour can result in suspension from the University.
INCOMPLETE GRADES:
Grades of Incomplete "I" will be granted only if there is a valid reason for extending the evaluation deadline and if students have a reasonable chance of improving their grade to pass the course.
ENGLISH USAGE:
All written work submitted must use good academic English and follow the guidelines provided in the Capilano University Guide to Writing Assignments (available from the University Bookstore). It is the responsibility of students to proof-read all their writing for any grammatical, spelling and stylistic errors.
STUDIO/FILMING DISCIPLINE:
Students must be dressed appropriately. Wet and cold weather requires waterproof and warm clothing. Students are required to wear work clothes for technical and production sessions. Clothing may be subjected to dirt, paint and dust. Sturdy shoes are a must. No food or beverages are allowed on set during production activities and during technical classes. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.
COMPUTER COURSE REQUIREMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES:
You are expected to abide by the Statement of Appropriate Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services in any use of computers at the University. This statement can be obtained from your department, the Library, Computer Services or on the University website.
ELECTRONIC DEVICES/LAPTOPS:
Use of electronic devices is not allowed during class time, except at the discretion of the instructor.
COMPUTER LAB USAGE:
No food or beverages are allowed in the University's computer labs at any time. At no time may students download any form of data from the Internet. Students must not abuse internet privileges by visiting inappropriate or illegal websites. Students are expected to abide by the Statement of Appropriate Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services in any use of computers at the University. This statement can be obtained from the department, the Library, Computer Services, or on the University website. Intentionally opening and/or altering other students' projects will not be tolerated. Respect for other students' work is of utmost importance. Offences regarding the above will result in the "0" mark in the participation grade, and restricted access to facilities.
PARTICIPATION/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR:
The grade for class participation is based on both the frequency and the quality of students' comments, questions and observations, with the emphasis on quality. The quality is determined by, among other things, the relevance, insight and clarity of remarks. Students are expected to demonstrate a professional attitude and behaviour towards their work, fellow-students, and their instructor. Students should demonstrate reliability, respect for and co-operation with colleagues. A willingness to work calmly and courteously under difficult conditions as well as a determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines is necessary in this course. Students should have respect for equipment and systems, and a constructive response to criticism.