# ARTS3065

Explorations in Contemporary Film Theory: Capstone

Semester Two  //  2018

# Course Overview

## Staff Contact Details

### Convenors

| Name | Email | Availability | Location | Phone |
|------|-------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Jodi Brooks | j.brooks@unsw.edu.au | Mondays 1-2pm | 231H Webster Building | 93855635 |

## School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

## Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

A Course Authority may excuse a student from classes or activities for up to one month. However, they may assign additional and/or alternative tasks to ensure compliance. A Course Authority considering the granting of absence must be satisfied a student will still be able to meet the course's learning outcomes and/or volume of learning. A student seeking approval to be absent for more than one month must apply in writing to the Dean and provide all original or certified supporting documentation.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

## Academic Information

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential academic information,
see https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

# Course Details

## Credit Points 6

## Summary of the Course

Subject Area: Film Studies

This course engages with specific debates in contemporary film theory at an advanced level. It involves critical analysis of key theoretical texts in film theory debates, and the viewing and analysis of a wide range of films. Through the advanced study of key areas in film theory debates you will develop an understanding of the concerns and parameters of the discipline and the ways in which it explores the ethical, ontological, cultural, and historical implications of particular filmic images and film practices. Possible topics include: theories of film spectatorship, psychoanalysis, realism, film sound and feminist film theory.

## At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. Recognise and articulate key areas of theoretical debate and disciplinary knowledge in Film Studies
2. Conduct scholarly enquiry on aspects of screen culture
3. Identify points of intersection between debates in Film Studies and debates in the Humanities more generally
4. Display skills in researching, drafting and writing an academic essay relative to Film Studies and its application
5. Communicate the outcomes of their research in both scholarly and non-specialist language

## Teaching Strategies

Scaffolded learning is central to the teaching strategies deployed in this course. As a capstone course ARTS3065 prioritises formative questioning, ongoing dialogue and peer-to-peer learning and teaching, each of which play a key part in the weekly seminars.  Course materials and class discussions are designed to challenge students through deeper learning and discussion and to enable students to move beyond their current skill and knowledge levels. In this course assessment tasks and teaching strategies are deeply intertwined, with students having the opportunity to develop and workshop their ideas and projects through scaffolded formative and summative assessment tasks.

# Assessment

There are three assessment tasks to complete in this course and you must complete and hand in all three tasks in order to be able to pass this course. This means that you will fail if you do not hand in one task even if you have a total grade of over 50 from the other two assignments.

You must attend a minimum of 80% of classes (lectures and seminars) to be regarded as having fulfilled the requirements of the course and the roll will be taken each week. Please make sure that you keep up to date with all course learning activities including additional screenings online.

## Assessment Tasks

| Assessment task | Weight | Due Date | Student Learning Outcomes Assessed |
|---|---|---|---|
| Writing exercises | 25% | 15/08/2018 12:00 AM | 3,4 |
| Research Portfolio | 35% | 13/09/2018 08:00 PM | 1,2,5 |
| Research Essay | 40% | 22/10/2018 06:00 PM | 1,2,4,5 |

## Assessment Details

### Assessment 1: Writing exercises

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** Two 350-500 word responses

**Details:** Short writing tasks consisting of two 350-500 word reflections on course materials as specified.Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade via course LMS.

**Additional details:**

The first assessment task is two short written pieces, completed in class, based on course materials (readings and screenings) weeks 1-4. Detailed information about the task, including sample questions and marking criteria, will be available on Moodle.

**Submission notes:**Completed in-class

**Turnitin setting:** This is not a Turnitin assignment

### Assessment 2: Research Portfolio

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 6-8 pages

**Details:** A 6-8 page research portfolio consisting of critical reflections on readings and screenings, annotated bibliography, project notes, research plan and draft question for the research essay.Written feedback and grade provided on marking rubric via course LMS

**Additional details:**

See Moodle for detailed information about the Research Portfolio.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

**Assessment 3: Research Essay**

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Length:** 2000 words plus bibliography

**Details:** Research essay of 2000 words that explores a question, concept or debate examined in the course.This is the final assessment task. Written feedback and numerical grade via course LMS.

**Additional details:**

This is your final assessment task for this course. Your rearch essay will explore a question, concept or debate examined in the course through the close analysis of a film or television text relevant to the course topic. Information about the research essay including guidance on topics and assessment criteria will be available on Moodle. The last few weeks of the course include essay workshops in which we will workshop work in progress.

**Turnitin setting:** This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Students are expected to put their names and student numbers on every page of their assignments.

## Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on [externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au](mailto:externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au). Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

## Late Assessment Penalties

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending of the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless special consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a 'day' is deemed to be each 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

*Task with a non–percentage mark*

If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

*Example*: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student's mark is therefore 17 – [25 (0.05 x 3)] = 13.25

*Task with a percentage mark*

If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

*Example*: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student's mark is therefore 68 – 15 = 53

- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;
- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in an essential component of the course.

This information is also available at:

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

## Special Consideration Applications

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances interfere with your assessment performance.

Sickness, misadventure or other circumstances beyond your control may:

* Prevent you from completing a course requirement,

* Keep you from attending an assessable activity,

* Stop you submitting assessable work for a course,

* Significantly affect your performance in assessable work, be it a formal end-of-semester examination, a class test, a laboratory test, a seminar presentation or any other form of assessment.

For further details in relation to Special Consideration including "When to Apply", "How to Apply" and "Supporting Documentation" please refer to the Special Consideration website: https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW. (http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise)

# Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

## Timetable

| Date | Type | Content |
|---|---|---|
| Week 1: 23 July - 29 July | Lecture | Introduction to the course: Screen Melodrama |
| | Seminar | Feeling film: thinking about method |
| Week 2: 30 July - 5 August | Lecture | Defining film melodrama -- key texts and debates |
| | Seminar | Workshop: case study discussions |
| Week 3: 6 August - 12 August | Lecture | The Hollywood Woman's film of the 1940s, focusing on *Now, Voyager!* (Rapper, 1942) |
| | Seminar | Tutorial workshop: the Hollywood woman's film and its importance in film theory |
| Week 4: 13 August - 19 August | Lecture | The Hollywood woman's film part 2: the question of the female spectator, focusing on *Stella Dallas* (King Vidor, 1937) |
| | Seminar | Part 1: Unpacking the Stella Dallas debates<br><br>Part 2: assessment 1 -- in-class writing task. |
| Week 5: 20 August - 26 August | Lecture | Screen emotions -- Dancer in the Dark, melodrama and the (anti)musical<br><br>Preparatory work: View *Dancer in the Dark* online before class (link on Moodle). |
| | Seminar | Preparing a research portfolio |
| Week 6: 27 August - 2 September | Lecture | The Melodramatic Mode<br><br>(online screening materials as specified on Moodle) |
| | Seminar | Close analysis of specified chapters in Linda Williams's *Playing the Race Card: Melodramas of Black and White from Uncle Tom to O.J. Simpson* |
| Week 7: 3 September - 9 September | Lecture | Popular Cinema, Historical trauma and the Emotions |
| | Seminar | The Schindler's List debate; research in progress discussion 1. |
| Week 8: 10 September - 16 September | Lecture | The crossover film: screening *Brokeback Mountain* OR *My Beautiful Laundrette* |
| | Tutorial | Defining the crossover film; research in progress discussion 2. |
| Week 9: 17 September - 23 September | Lecture | Queer melodrama<br><br>Screening *The Hours* (Stephen Daldry, 2002) |
| | Seminar | Queer melodrama -- questions of address and film form; research in progress discussion 3 |

| Week 10: 1 October - 7 October | Lecture | Documentary and the emotions (film texts TBC) |
|---|---|---|
| | Seminar | Research in progress discussion 3 and preparing for your research essay. |
| Week 11: 8 October - 14 October | Lecture | Essay workshop -- see Moodle for details |
| | Seminar | Essay workshop -- see Moodle for details |
| Week 12: 15 October - 21 October | Lecture | Essay workshop -- see Moodle for details |
| | Seminar | Essay workshop -- see Moodle for details |

# Resources

## Prescribed Resources

### Essential readings

There is no text book for this course -- the essential readings for each week will be available on Moodle through Leganto. These readings are **essential** for the successful completion of the course and you are expected to keep up to date with all readings.

Essential media texts (films and television series) will be either screened in class and/or available electronically through Moodle.

## Recommended Resources

Recommended supplementary readings, bibliographies and other research materials will be available through the course Moodle.

## Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback is gathered on this course each year both through formal means such as MyExperience and through regular class discussions. This year's focus on screen melodrama is a response to past student interest in this topic and also responds to student feedback asking for more opportunities to explore topics and debates in depth.

## Image Credit

Bodies & Interfaces 2016

## CRICOS

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