



THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FRE/FLM 356

3 credits (45 contact hours)

FRANCE AS SEEN THROUGH ITS MOVIES, THE 1980s TO TODAY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A look at different aspects of France through the analysis of films from the 1980s to today. This class proposes an historical, cultural and esthetic approach to films.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

We will describe, interrogate and explore the multiple representations of France as proposed by these films. Each film will be approached through the angle of its relations with the socio-cultural events of the period in which it was created as well as its relation with the France of today. The class will also propose an introduction to image interpretation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will view each film in French (with English subtitles when possible) and will research, at home, information on the period, the principle actors or the director. Students will also participate in class discussions and will analyze parts of the films (with the professor or in an oral presentation with other students) and will also create files in French on each of the films – work done at home on each film in response to a list of precise questions. This course will also help students to ameliorate their written French.

Elements studied in each class will be systematically compared to the experiences of each student in his or her daily life in France. What differences are perceived? What has remained the same? What changes are perceived in the representations of France?

PROGRAM

Ressources Humaines, Laurent Cantet (1999)

Marius et Jeannette, Robert Guédiguian (1997)

Le Petit Criminel, Jacques Doillon (1990)

Les Glaneurs et la Glanneuse, Agnès Varda, (1999)

Quand La Mer Monte, Gilles Porte et Yolande Moreau (2004)

8 Femmes (2002), et Potiche (2010),_François Ozon

GRADING

1. Participation: 20%
2. Film Files: 25%
3. Mid-term Exam: 25%
4. Final Exam: 30%

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

One of the most important obligations of this class is the students' presence in class. This is not a lecture class and the quality of the discussions depend, for the most part, on your participation.

Students must be punctual, with each lesson prepared in advance in order to be ready to participate in the discussions and other activities that will be proposed.

Class attendance and participation will be part of your final grade.

After two unexcused absences, the student's final grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

CALENDAR

Week 1	Introduction. An introduction the specific vocabulary of film analysis. Exploring the notion of 'a director's film.'
Week 2	Presentation of film 1.
Week 3	View and analyze the film.
Week 4	Film file due. Presentation of film 2.
Week 5	View and analyze the film.
Week 6	Film file due. Presentation of film 3. Prepare for the mid-term. Review each film and be able to discuss the subject of each as well as the notion of 'director's film.' Be able to explore, in French, the uniqueness of each film.
Week 7	Mid-term exam.
Week 8	Presentation of film 4.
Week 9	View and analyze the film.
Week 10	Film file due. Presentation of film 5.
Week 11	View and analyze the film.
Week 12	Film file due. Presentation of film 6.
Week 13	View and analyze the film. Prepare for the final exam.

Week 14

Final exam. Analytical questions on the last three films and questions on the overall course.