



## THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FRE/FLM 355

3 credits (45 contact hours)

### **FRANCE AS SEEN THROUGH ITS MOVIES: POST-WWII TO THE 1970S**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A cultural approach to cinema from the post-war period to the 1970s.

This course proposes an historical, cultural and esthetic approach to French films made between the end of the second World War and the 1970s. How do the films describe the dominant elements of a society and how they witness as well as create these representations. We will describe, question and recognize the multiple representations of France as proposed in these films. Each film will be studied in light of its relationship to the socio-cultural events of the period when it was created, as well as its relation to France today. The class will also learn techniques for studying images.

#### **INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS**

Students will view films in French with English sub-titles when available and will do individual research on each period, principal actor and film maker, he will participate in class debates and will analyze passages from the films (with the teacher or in an oral presentation in class) and as home work he will write resumes of each film in French. The content elements of each class will be systematically related to student's experience in his daily environment: what are the differences, what remains? What are the changes in the representations of France?

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

At the end of the semester the students will have learned:

- to identify and read French cultural signs in a film
- to write a complex reply in French to an analytical question
- articulate formal elements and content elements of a film
- explain one's own esthetic judgment, taking into account one's socio-cultural group

#### **PROGRAM**

« Les Enfants du Paradis » de Marcel Carné (1943)

« La Traversée de Paris » de Claude Autant-Lara (1956)

« Les Vacances de M. Hulot » de Jacques Tati. (1953), « Mon Oncle » (1958)

« A Bout de Souffle » de Jean-Luc Godard (1959)

« Deux hommes dans la ville » de José Giovanni (1973)

« Alexandre le bienheureux » d'Yves Robert. (1967)

## **EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated on their class participation: efforts to understand, listening abilities, ability to accept different representations and images, and written work done at home. Work on each film will be emphasized by written synthesis in response to specific questions. This exercise is also an opportunity for each student to work on global analytical linguistic expression (this will be 15% of the final grade).

One of the fundamental obligations for this course is class presence. This is not a lecture course; the quality of the class depends on you. You must arrive on time, with the day's lesson prepared in advance, ready to participate in discussions and proposed activities. Class participation and constant attention are a part of your final grade. This grade will be systematically lowered after two unjustified absences. All work must be the result of each student's original production. Plagiarism of any kind (copying work from the internet or from another student) will result in an immediate F.

Details of Global Evaluation:

- Participation: 25%
- Film analysis: 25%
- Mid -term exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25%

## **CALENDAR**

Students' Work Calendar.

**Semaine I :** Introduction

Etudier le vocabulaire spécifique de l'analyse filmique ; réflexion sur la notion de « film d'auteur »

**Semaine II :** Voir le film « Les Enfants du Paradis » de Marcel Carné

**Semaine III :** Voir le film « La traversée de Paris » de Claude Autant-Lara

**Semaine IV :** Voir les films « Les Vacances de M. Hulot » et « Mon Oncle » de Jacques Tati.

**Semaine V :** Préparer l'examen de mid-term

Revoir l'ensemble des films étudiés/ s'interroger sur l'objet film et la notion de « film d'auteur »  
/être capable de décrire en français la singularité de chaque film.  
Examen de mid-term.

**Semaine VI :** Voir le film « A Bout de souffle » de Jean-Luc Godard

**Semaine VII :** Voir le film « Deux hommes dans la ville » de José Giovanni

**Semaine VIII :** Voir le film « Alexandre le bienheureux » d'Yves Robert.

Préparer l'examen final : revoir l'ensemble du programme.

Examen final

Les autres classes sont consacrées au visionnage et à l'analyse d'extraits des films en classe avec le professeur.