

FRE 425 - French Cinema
Modern Languages Department, SUNY Cortland

Fall 2018
3 cr. hrs
MWF 9:10-10:00
VH 136
ponterior@cortland.edu

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Office hrs: MW 12:30 2:30; F 12:30-1:30
& by appt.

Textbooks: French Cinema: From Its Beginnings to the Present (Remi Fournier Lanzoni)
Les films seront les textes essentiels pour le cours. Revisionnez-les !
<http://web.cortland.edu/ponterior/cinema/>

Course Description:

FRE 425: History of French Cinema from its beginnings through the present. Selected readings, study of film techniques, and an analysis of a wide variety of films. Prerequisite FRE 315, 316, or 311.

GE 8:

FRE 425 meets the requirement for GE 8: The Arts.

The goal of this category is to help students develop an awareness of the arts as a system of inquiry in which aesthetic elements are involved. Courses in this category will help students understand the creative process, be broadly based within or among the areas of the arts and provide this breadth through an historical approach or participation in the creative process. Students will explore the idea that important learning experiences can take place through the use of senses and imagination.

Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate an understanding of

1. at least one principal form of artistic expression and the creative process inherent therein;
2. the significance of artistic expression in past and/or present civilizations.

Attendance:

Courses in French at SUNY Cortland serve not only to provide exposure to the course content but also to help students achieve communicative goals through active participation. For this reason attendance at class meetings is essential. Therefore, **if you have more than 3 unexcused absences by the end of the semester your grade will be lowered by 5/100 for each additional absence.** (Only serious illnesses and problems at home, religious holidays and sports competitions are considered excused absences. A doctor's note will be required.) It is to your advantage to inform me before any class which you must miss. Contact Modern Languages or my office. Work missed whether from an excused or unexcused absence must still be completed, and it is **the student's responsibility** to see that this is done quickly.

Evaluation:

Papers (3 papers, 5 pages ea.)	40%
Homework - preparation	10%
Class presentations	10%
Mid-term	20%
Final Exam	20%

A scale of 0-100 will be used as follow:

A+	97	-	100
A	93	-	96
A-	90	-	92
B+	87	-	89
B	83	-	86 etc...

In this course in French cinema we will explore the history of cinema in France through study of a number of important and popular French films. It will be essential that you PREPARE by viewing films outside of class. Viewing a film once is not the same as studying it. Expect to rescreen the films and take notes as you watch. Film is a language, and there is a language for talking about film. By the end of the course, you will find that you no longer see films or think about them the same way.

Tests:

All major tests will be announced. **ABSENCE FROM TESTS WILL BE EXCUSED ONLY IN THE PRESENCE OF WRITTEN PROOF OF A VALID REASON FOR YOUR ABSENCE. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE CAN RESULT IN FAILURE IN THE COURSE.** Notify me ahead of time when you know you must miss a test and make appropriate arrangements.

Papers:

Three 5-page minimum papers will be written for this class. This class is labeled as a WI class. In fact, all upper level language classes have always essentially more than met the WI requirements. We will address writing techniques in class (designing thesis statements, organizing outlines, composing paragraphs, vocabulary choices, sentence structure, and grammatical accuracy) and you will rewrite your first draft of all papers.

Online streaming: Films will be available online through the SUNY Cortland Library.

Class presentations: Students will present reports on particular themes, scenes or outside films as assigned.

Goals and Objectives:

Cinema is considered the 7th art in France and is a central aspect of 20th century French culture. We will develop a good basic knowledge of French cinema and an ability to understand film, and to talk and write about it. Film is also closely related to the historical events of the period. Through cinema we will also come to a better understanding of 20th century France.

Internet Resources:

Online streaming : Netflix, Hulu

Les Leçons de Cinéma : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMwN2JloosE&list=PL0416194348A330A5>

Quand je serai grand, je ferai cinéma ! 30 épisodes:

Le Métier de... : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUxLzpb3hjs&list=PL27830E0807C7669E>

Internet Movie Database: <http://us.imdb.com/search/>

French Film Guide: <http://www.topfrenchfilms.info/>

Film and video resources (Northwestern U.) : <http://www.library.northwestern.edu/media/resources/film.html>

CineCritic : <http://cinecritic.free.fr/>

Les frères Lumière: http://web.culture.fr/culture/villalum/expo_lum.htm

Where to buy : FACETS : <http://www.facets.org/>

Lexique du cinéma : <http://www.cegep-ste-foy.qc.ca/~cinema/LEXIQUE/LEXIQUE.HTM>

Ymagin - petit lexique du vocabulaire cinématographique : <http://sidonie9.free.fr/cine/lexique.html>
Petit lexique du cinéma : <http://www.ac-creteil.fr/sugerstdenis/audiovisuel/Lexique/Lexique.htm>
Première (magazine du cinéma) : <http://www.premiere.fr/>
Histoire du cinéma : <http://netia59.ac-lille.fr/tgn/0592374k/histoireducinema.htm>
Cent ans de cinéma français : <http://www.france.diplomatie.fr/culture/france/biblio/folio/cinema/>
Cinémathèque française : <http://www.cinemathequefrancaise.com/>
Pour les enseignants - fiches d'activités - cinéma :
<http://www.media-awareness.ca/fre/prof/activite/primaire/acine.htm>

Syllabus:

- 27 août Introduction. Invention du cinéma - Frères Lumière (1895).
Cinéma muet - Georges Méliès, *Le Voyage dans la lune* (1902).
Entre les guerres : René Clair – *Sous les toits de Paris* (1930);
Marcel Carné – *Hôtel du Nord* (1938) « Atmosphère, atmosphère ! » ;
- Week 1 Marcel Carné – *Drôle de Drame* (1937) « Bizarre, bizarre ! » ;
Carné - *Le Quai des Brumes* (1938) « T'as d'beaux yeux, tu sais! » ;
Jean Renoir, *La Grande illusion* (1938) ;
Jean Renoir, *La Règle du jeu* (1939) .
Cinéma de l'Occupation: Marcel Carné, *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1945)
Réalisme poétique – dialogues de Jacques Prévert
(pour la prochaine fois : Une page écrite sur un film que vous avez vu, ce que vous en pensez.)
Commencer « *Les Enfants du Paradis* »
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- 3 septembre Les Enfants du Paradis (le réalisme poétique, scénario et dialogues Jacques Prévert)
Week 2
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- 10 septembre Finir *Les Enfants du Paradis*.
Impressionnisme et Surréalisme: Jean Cocteau, *Orphée* (1949)
Week 3 (extrait *La belle et la bête*, 1946)
1st paper thesis.
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- 17 septembre cont. *Orphée*
Visions de la guerre : René Clément, *Jeux interdits* (1951)
Week 4 1st paper outline.
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- 24 septembre cont. *Jeux Interdits* (analyses)
Week 5 Hand in 1st paper.
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- 1 octobre Après la guerre, la comédie ? : Claude Autant-Lara, *La Traversée de Paris* (1956) ;
Week 6 Extraits: Jacques Tati, *Mon Oncle* (1958) ; Gérard Oury, *La Grande Vadrouille* (1966).
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- 8 octobre Examen partiel (mid-term - *une heure*)
Week 7 Nouvelle Vague : Jean-Luc Godard, *A bout de souffle* (1959).
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- 15 octobre **Fall Break (Mon.-Tues.)**
cont. Nouvelle Vague
Week 8 Godard: *Weekend*, (1967)-*le bouchon* ; Rohmer: *Ma Nuit chez Maude* (1969) ; Demy,
Les Parapluies de Cherbourg (1964) ; Alain Renais & Marguerite Duras, *Hiroshima mon amour* (1959).
Technique : Students will create a storyboard to plan a multi-shot scene, film the individual shots, and use a non-linear video editing tool to edit the film (include dialog, reaction shots, music track, etc)
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22 octobre Presentations of individual Truffaut films by students:
Week 9 François Truffaut: 400 coups (1959); Jules et Jim (1962); Tirez sur le pianiste (1960);
La marié était en noir ; Baisers volés (1968); L'enfant sauvage (1970); Argent de
poche (1976); Le Dernier Métro (1980).

29 octobre Le Cinéma du Look: Diva, Jean-Jacques Beineix (1981);
Week 10 Extraits: Delicatessen, Marc Caro & Jean-Pierre Jeunet (1991).

5 novembre Extraits: Luc Besson (1 jour) - Nikita (1990 -12:45 / 38:00-49:00); Subway (1985);
Angel-A (2005)

Week 11 Comédie :

12 novembre Comédie : Gérard Oury, Les Aventures de Rabbi Jacob (1973), Le Corniaud (1964) ;
Week 12 Dany Boon, Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis (2008); Jean-Marie Poiré, Le Père Noël est une
Ordure (1982); Francis Veber, Dîner de cons (1998) ; Yves Robert, Le Grand Blond
avec une chaussure noire (1972).
La folie : Les Diaboliques (Clouzot, 1955) ;

19 novembre cont. La folie

Week 13

Thanksgiving Recess (Wed.-Fri.)

26 novembre Finir: La folie

Week 14 Paris de rêves, idéalisé : Le fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2001)

3 décembre Cinéma des enfants (si on a le temps) : Zazie dans le Métro (Louis Malle, 1960) ;

Week 14 Le Petit Nicolas.(2009).

FINAL EXAM: 3A : Wed. Dec. 12, 8:30-10:30