Studies in French and European Cinema

Course Number: French 433/Film 433.

January 3, 5-9, 12-14 2015
*Note the start on a Saturday*

The class is taught in English. Films are shown in original language with English subtitles. Students may choose to write assignments in either French or English, depending on their language abilities and majors. French majors can take this course for degree credit only when they complete all assignments in French.

The course follows the format 2+2: 2 hours of lecture/discussion (2 credits, twice by 800 minutes) to each 2 hours of lab (1 credit, 1600 minutes) of actual film analysis.

Next time offered: WINTERmester, January or MAYmester 2017

Instructor: Dr. Yelena Matusevich

Office 609 C Gruening Building, tel: 474 5851, e-mail: ymatusevich@alaska.edu

Class meets: 12:45-5:45 p.m. 3 credits

*(45 maximum hours corresponding to 3 credits class offered during 15 week Spring semester).*

Office Hours: 6:30-7:30 pm MTWRF

Required Reading: Classpack on reserve at the Rasmuson library.

Course description:

This is a survey course of French and European Film History, from the early silent to contemporary films. Since French film history is inseparable from European film evolution, the course includes discussion and viewing of films representing such major artistic movements as German expressionism, Russian Montage, Italian neo-realism and others. Providing the contours of international cinema history, the class will also discuss the most influential works of the most prominent European film directors as well as assess major film forms and movements.

Complete Catalog Description:

French 433/ Film 426. Studies of French and European Cinema. May be repeated for credit if topic varies. This course discusses the evolution of French and European cinema in historical and artistic contexts.

Prerequisites ENGL F217 or FLM F217; ENGL F211X or F213X; French 301 or 302 or permission of instructor.

Course Goals:

Provide students with cultural and historical framework for analyzing French and European films.

Provide opportunities to develop critical thinking skills as applied to the analysis, interpretation, and critical assessment of films.

Introduce students into French culture and French contribution to Cinema

Provide opportunities to demonstrate the use of these critical thinking skills in written and oral communication.

Prepare to meet the academic expectations associated with humanities courses in baccalaureate degree programs

Enhance listening comprehension and writing skills in French language for the students taking the class for the French degree credit
Students’ Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical development of film as a cultural product.
- Demonstrate in critical essays and oral presentations, an ability to analyze, interpret, and critique films.
- Demonstrate the basic knowledge of European cinemas both as a means of contextualizing film history globally and of deepening understanding of other cultures and peoples.

Instructional methods:

Lecture-discussion, group discussion, journal writing, quizzes.

Course Policy:

Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared. Students are expected to come to class on time and prepared. In general, I will not provide opportunities for "make up" classes or activities. You are responsible for all material covered in class. Please come see me or send an email if you have questions about your writing or about the topics covered in class.

Grading:

The final grade will be determined on the basis of (1) consistent participation in the classroom discussion of the material, (2) mini quizzes (3) reports, (4) daily film reviews, (5) journals, (6) a written final quiz, (7) a written final paper.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Attendance/Discussion Participation 15%
Written Quizzes 15%
Report 15%

Daily Film Reviews 15%

Journals 10%

Final Quiz 10%

Home-taken Final Paper 20%

UAF Grade policy:

- A+ 97-100%
- A 93-96%
- A- 90-92%
- B+ 87-89%
- B 83-86%
- B- 80-82%
- C+ 73-76%
- C- 70-72%
- D+ 67-69%
- D 63-66%
- D- 60-62%
- F less than 60

A grade of D+, D or D- in a Core (X) class will automatically require the student to re-take the class to receive core credit, starting Fall 2011.

Discussion includes interpretation of the particular literary film from both (a) a thematic and (b) a stylistic perspective. While the thematic part should place the film into cultural context, analyzing its relevance and connection with the
mental reality of a country, the stylistic part should answer the question whether the film falls into any genre classification and contains some innovative elements.

Quizzes concern each reading assignment in the textbook. They are short answer format and straightforward. Usually quizzes don’t take more than 5 minutes. They are daily and simply check that students read the assignment. **Quizzes are given at the very beginning of each class day, during the first 5 minutes.**

Reports. Each student does two short 10-15 minutes reports due on the precise dates twice during the Wintermester/Maymester. The schedule and topics for the reports/exposés are in the classpack and also will be distributed **on the first day** of class. Oral exposé or report should never exceed 10-15 minutes of the class time. Visual materials are encouraged. Written exposé must be typed. It should have an introduction (maybe one paragraph), the main part and the conclusion. Bibliographical sources must be listed at the end. Written exposé should not exceed 3-4 pages in length.

Film reviews should follow newspaper film review format. Samples of such reviews and guidelines will be available in the class pack. Students write them before or after class. **Class pack** containing: samples of newspaper-size film reviews, copies of guidelines, guiding questions for films, homework assignments, critical reviews etc will be available in two copies at the Library on reserve and in the instructor’s mail box at the Department of Foreign Languages. Film reviews are collected each class with 2 collected after the weekend.

Journals: students should keep a small free format journal where they record their first, unfiltered impressions right after viewing a film. Journal entries serve as starting points of classroom discussions and should be brought into the classroom daily. **Journals are collected twice: after the first and the second week of the class.**

Final Quiz: is given on the last day of the course. The aim of this last quiz is to check whether students retained major names and movements in European cinema. By studying for this final quiz students review and retain the course material.

Final Paper: You choose the topic of your final paper. It is necessary, however, to get my approval. The paper must show proofs of your personal
research and **point of view**. Bibliography must be included. Please, follow Chicago Style. No longer than 6 pages, please.

**Students with disabilities:** the instructor will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 WHITAKER BLDG, 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

**Attendance:**

Since quizzes are given at the very beginning of each class day, during the first 5 minutes, and they represent 15% of the grade, missing a quiz is simultaneously an indication of absence and a loss of participation grade’s points. There is no other specific policy for absence or tardiness. No make up for quizzes is possible due to the intensive nature of the course.

**Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Policy:**

Students must comply with UAF policy in this regard as stated at: [http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html](http://www.uaf.edu/catalog/current/academics/regs3.html)

**About the Instructor:**

I have PhD in French Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign. There I studied History of French and European Cinema with Prof. Edwin Jahiel, *Officier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, famous film critic and one of the US representatives at Cannes Festival. To see Professor Jahiel's movie reviews, go to: [http://www.prairienet.org/ejahiel/](http://www.prairienet.org/ejahiel/)
I published 2 books, many articles and dozens of works of fiction. I am also a visual artist.