

## *Studies in French & European Cinema*

(The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus but no major changes are expected at this time. The detailed class schedule will be provided closer to the first day of instruction)

**Course Number:** FL 433/Film 433/French 433 (cross-listed).

3 credits

The class is taught in English. All films are shown in original languages with English subtitles. Students may wish/choose to write assignments in French, English, Spanish, Italian, German or Russian depending on their language abilities and majors.

This class fulfills Film and FL major and/or minor requirements, but is also an elective. The course has been already approved for compression, and may be repeated for credit when content varies.

**Instructor: Dr. Yelena Matusevich**

Office 609 C Gruening Building, tel: 474 5851, e-mail: [ymatusevich@alaska.edu](mailto:ymatusevich@alaska.edu)

**Office Hours : 6 -7 pm M & F via zoom or in person if it becomes possible**

**Delivery method: HyFlex (partly asynchronous online, part synchronous via zoom or, hopefully, in person if possible) Weather permitting we might choose to have our discussions outside!**

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

**Required Reading (tentative, awaiting instructor's copy):**

*World on Film: An Introduction* 1st Edition by [Martha P. Nochimson](#)

**Suggested Reading:** *World Cinema: Critical Approaches* by [John Hill](#)

*Encyclopedia of European Cinema* by Ginette Vincendeau, Facts on File, 1995, ISBN: 0816033943

**Course description:**

This is a survey course of European Cinema, which examines the great auteurs in European filmmaking, placing particular emphasis on French (as the birthplace of Film), German, Russian and Spanish cinemas, reflecting UAF language and culture offerings. UAF's northern connection is represented by, besides Russian, a glimpse into Scandinavian Cinema. The course is culturally and historically oriented and provides the contours of international cinema against the background of the 20<sup>th</sup> century history. It

includes viewing of films representing major artistic movements such as German Expressionism, Russian Montage, French New Wave, Italian Neo-Realism and Spanish New Cinema.

Prerequisites ENGL F217 or FLM F217; ENGL F211X or F213X; French 301 or 302 **or permission of instructor**. Please, ask for it using my email: [ymatusevich@alaska.edu](mailto:ymatusevich@alaska.edu)

### **Course Objectives:**

- Provide students with a cultural and historical framework for analyzing European films.
- Provide opportunities to develop critical thinking skills as applied to the analysis, interpretation, and critical assessment of films.
- Introduce students into European culture and raise their awareness of the European contribution to Cinema
- Enhance listening comprehension and writing skills in French/German/Spanish/Russian languages for the students taking the class for foreign languages degree

### **Students' Learning Outcomes:**

**Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:**

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

### **Instructional methods:**

Forum, group discussion, lecture (recorded or not), journal writing, quizzes.

### **Course Policy:**

Students are expected to be prepared. Their preparedness is daily checked by quizzes. They are responsible for all material covered in class. Please, send me an email if you have questions about your writing or the topics covered in class.

**Grades will be determined as follows:**

1. Discussion Participation	15%
2. Written Quizzes	15%
3. Presentation	15%
4. Journals	10%
5. Final Exam	20%
6. Final Paper	25%

**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 (understanding) of a particular 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 or culture, 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 should not take more than 5 minutes to complete, for they simply check that students read the assignment. **Quizzes are given each class day, and questions are known in advance under the rubric 'Guiding Questions'.**

**Presentations** Each student does one short 10 minutes report due on the precise date. The schedule and topics for the them will be presented before **the first day** of class. Visual materials are encouraged but not obligatory. Written part of the exposé must be typed and submitted to the instructor after the presentation. It should have an introduction (maybe one paragraph), the main part and the conclusion. Bibliographical sources must be listed at the end. Written exposés should not exceed 3 pages in length. Presentations may concern great personalities of European cinema, particular historical events or cultural movements. Students will have an ample opportunity to choose a topic, which is of interest to them.

**Journals:** students should keep a small free format journal where they record their first, unfiltered impressions right after viewing each film. Journal entries serve as starting

points of discussions and are very important. Electronic formats are acceptable.

**Journals are collected twice: after the first and the second week of the class.**

**Final Exam:** The aim of this exam is just to check whether students retained major names and movements in European cinema. By studying for this final exam students review and retain the course material. Students will know the exact content of the exam in advance.

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

### **Attendance:**

Since quizzes 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 or for anything else is possible due to the extremely condensed nature of the course.

### **About the Instructor:**

I have PhD in French Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign and a second doctorate in History (2018) from EHESS (École des Hautes Études des Sciences Sociales), Paris, France. I have recently taught at the Department of History at Sorbonne, Paris, KU Leuven, Belgium and University of Bayreuth, Germany. I have published 3 books, with the fourth in press, over 50 academic articles and dozens of works of fiction. I am also a visual artist. My CV is available at <https://uaf.edu/language/about-us/yelena-matusevich.php>

I studied History of Cinema under the late Prof. Edwin Jahiel, *Officier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques*, famous film critic and one of the US representatives at Cannes Festival. See [https://www.news-gazette.com/news/life-remembered-edwin-jahiel-was-committed-to-film/article\\_2badb53f-2421-5f30-89f1-f495487e92d5.html](https://www.news-gazette.com/news/life-remembered-edwin-jahiel-was-committed-to-film/article_2badb53f-2421-5f30-89f1-f495487e92d5.html)

### **UAF Policies**

- Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I am happy to work with you, disability services, veterans' services, rural student services, etc to find reasonable accommodations. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go the following site: [www.uaf.edu/handbook/](http://www.uaf.edu/handbook/)

- **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.
- **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>
- **COVID-RELATED POLICIES:** Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website:  
<https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf/uaf-students?authuser=0>  
 Students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.
- **STUDENT SERVICES**
  - Speaking Center (907-474-5470, [speak@uaf.edu](mailto:speak@uaf.edu), Gruening 507)
  - Writing Center (907-474-5314, [uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu), Gruening 8th floor)
  - UAF Math Services, [uafmathstatlab@gmail.com](mailto:uafmathstatlab@gmail.com), Chapman 305 (for math fee paying students only)
  - Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
  - The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120)
  - For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List  
[https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM\\_364e19011717281.pdf](https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM_364e19011717281.pdf)
- **TITLE IX:** University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include: 1) You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043 2) You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7599 3) You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721

