

UNIVERSITY of GUELPH
Department of History
FALL 2015
HIST*2020: *Film as History*

LEC Mon
07:00PM - 09:50PM
THRN 1307

Instructor: Dr John Walsh
Office: MCKN, 243 (ext.58039)
Hours: TBA
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COURSE OUTLINE

Prerequisites:

None

Overview:

This course will consider film both as a source and as a comment on the past. Topics will vary depending on instructor expertise, and may include film as propaganda, the city in film, film as myth, women and gender in film, film and war.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, an assiduous student will be able to:

1. explain the fundamental continuing relevance of ancient cultures to contemporary society;
2. connect the reception of the ancient world through the medium of film to the attitudes and beliefs of the relevant culture and period;
3. explain the concepts and underpinning theories employed to approach the study of ancient cultures;
4. analyze, critique and evaluate a range of source material;
5. appraise and integrate the literary and historical sources, from which an analysis of ancient culture may be derived, with other genres of ancient sources, such as archaeological, numismatic, and epigraphic material;
6. integrate ancient culture to explain issues in contemporary life and society; and
7. organise and deploy evidence in order to discuss critically historical, social and cultural themes in relation to specific aspects of ancient history and culture from the Mycenaean period to the Julio-Claudian dynasty.

Text Required:

Solomon, J. *The Ancient World in the Cinema (revised ed.)*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.

Method of Presentation:

Students will screen films independently (to be available through University of Guelph Library Reserve) and prepare readings from the required text and supplemental readings to be provided. **See Courselink for readings.** Lectures and in-class discussion will address important cultural and historical themes to complement the viewing of each film.

Evaluation:

Quizzes* (5% each, in-class see below)	20%
Midterm** (in-class see below)	20%
Paper*** (see Courselink for complete instructions)	20%
Final Examination†	<u>40%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

Course Schedule:

Week/ Date	Topic/Film(s)
1/Sep.14	Course outline Introduction (I) to Ancient Greek History
2/Sep.21	<i>Troy</i> (2004) Wolfgang Petersen
3/Sep.28	QUIZ 1 <i>Cold Mountain</i> (2003) Anthony Minghella
4/Oct.5	<i>300 Spartans</i> (1962) Rudolph Maté. <i>300</i> (2006) Zack Snyder
5/Oct.12	No Class Scheduled (Thanksgiving Break)
6/Oct.19	QUIZ 2 <i>Alexander the Great</i> (1956) Michael Forlong and Robert Rossen <i>Alexander</i> (2004) Wolfgang Petersen
7/Oct.26	MIDTERM Introduction (II) to Ancient Roman History
8/Nov.2	<i>Cleopatra</i> (1963) Joseph L. Mankiewicz
9/Nov.9	QUIZ 3 <i>Spartacus</i> (1960) Stanley Kubrick
10/Nov.16	ASSIGNMENT DUE <i>Quo Vadis</i> (1951) Mervyn LeRoy
11/Nov.23	QUIZ 4 <i>The Fall of the Roman Empire</i> (1964) Anthony Mann
12/Nov.30	<i>Gladiator</i> (2000) Ridley Scott
12/Dec.4	<i>Monty Python's Life of Brian</i> (1979) Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones

*Quizzes will be held at the start of each class as indicated on the schedule. They will take approximately 15 minutes. Quizzes will be multiple-choice format and cover all lecture material, discussions and assigned viewings inclusively, as follows:

QUIZ 1, Week(s) 1-2;
QUIZ 2, Week(s) 3-4;
QUIZ 3, Week(s) 7-8;
QUIZ 4, Week(s) 9-10.

Graded quizzes will be returned at the beginning of the next scheduled lecture meeting. It is the responsibility of students to arrange to complete any missed in-course evaluations. Similarly, students remain responsible for lecture material and class discussions missed due to absence. The format of all tests and examinations will be reviewed and discussed in detail **during lecture** prior to each evaluation.

** The midterm examination will be held during the first hour of the scheduled lecture period (see above). The exam will cover **ALL** material from lectures, discussions, assigned viewings and readings weeks 1-6.

***Assignment instructions and guidelines are posted on Courselink. Late assignments will be penalised at 10% each day.

†The final examination will be scheduled during the final examination period. The exam will cover **ALL** material from lectures, discussions, assigned viewings and assigned readings: the exam is cumulative.

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, 6 November 2015**. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar](#).

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email sas@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.