



HIST*2020 Film as History

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of History

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - December 01, 2019

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

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.

Pre-Requisites: 2.00 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course will use modern films as a point of entry into understanding both the culture of the Middle Ages and how contemporary society has come to perceive it. Through the comparative reading of modern films against medieval primary sources, we will come to an understanding of how the modern mind has re-written and re-interpreted the medieval experience. At the same time, students will be introduced to the culture and society of the European Middle Ages, the period stretching from antiquity to the early modern world (ca. 500-ca. 1500).

Students must see every film: there is no guarantee that these films will be accessible outside the scheduled screening. Be warned: the University library does not have most of them and they may not be available on YouTube or Netflix. This course will also have significant reading and writing components. Students must prepare the assigned readings before screening the films in order to gain a strong critical stance from which to assess the films. Assignments will require students to read critically medieval primary sources. Students may also choose to do research into the secondary interpretations of historians, and the creative interpretations of film makers. This course will provide students with the opportunity to hone their critical faculties through the analysis of traditional and non-traditional sources.

Caveat students: Please be warned! This is a history course. It is not a course about movies and the stories they tell **nor** is it a course about film. Rather, it is a course about the past and how our understanding – or misunderstanding – of the past sometimes betrays history. Films must be viewed critically, in light of the assigned readings, particularly the primary sources.

Format: This course will meet twice a week. Tuesdays will be devoted to background lectures and discussion of films and the underlying historical problems. Thursdays will be used to introduce and discuss background and view the film. Students will be responsible for reading the assigned material, viewing the films in light of the sources, and writing thoughtful and critical analyses in the assignments. Students will also be expected to be active participants in discussion of both history and film.

1.3 Timetable

Tuesdays 2:30-3:50 & Thursdays 2:30-5:20

Mackinnon 116

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Professor J. Murray
Email:	jacqueline.murray@uoguelph.ca
Office:	MCKNEXT 1005
Office Hours:	Office hours TBA

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Course Readings available on Course Reserve (Readings)

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. articulate and further your appreciation of the complexity and richness of medieval society, as represented in medieval sources;
2. analyze primary sources and compare them to modern interpretations of the past;

3. develop an understanding of how the modern mind has re-written and re-interpreted the medieval experience.
 4. develop critical skills in reading and critiquing the veracity of cinematic representations;
 5. hone your capacity to write both critically and comparatively about past and present.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Week 1

Topics: Introduction

Christians, Pagans, and Missionaries
 Film: The Wicker Man

Week 2

Topics: Invasions and Confrontations

Film: The Vikings

Week 3

Topics: The Plantagenet Dynasty

Film: The Lion in Winter

Assignment 1 due Thursday, January 28th at the beginning of class (in case we finish early)

Week 4

Topics: Politics and Piety

Film: Becket

Week 5

Topics: The Clash of Cultures: West views East

Film: The Crusades
 Reading: Selections 13-1

Week 6

Topics: **The Clash of Cultures: East views West**

Film: Saladin

Assignment 2 due Thursday, February 14th at the beginning of class (in case we finish early)

Week 7

Topics: **Saints and Popular Religion**

Film: Brother Sun, Sister Moon

Week 8

Topics: **Saints and Heresy**

Film: The Sorceress

Week 9

Topics: **Saxons, Normans and Legends**

Film: Robin Hood

Assignment 3 due Thursday, March 17th at the beginning of class (in case we finish early)

Week 10

Topics: **Robin Hood - The Legend Continues**

Film: Robin and Marian

Week 11

Topics: **Love, Sex and Marriage**

Film: The Return of Martin Guerre

Week 12

Topics: **The Satirical Middle Ages**

Film: Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Questions, discussion, wrap up

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

First Assignment (20%)

Due: Mon, Jan 28, in class

Discuss the portrayal of Viking society in the film *The Vikings*. How faithfully does the film reflect the society portrayed in *Ragnar's Saga* and by Saxo Grammaticus? 1000 words.

Second Assignment (20%)

Due: Wed, Feb 13, in class

Compare and contrast the portrayal of King Henry II in *The Lion in Winter* and *Becket*. How do these portrayals compare with the evidence presented by Walter Map and other medieval observers? 1500 words.

Third Assignment (25%)

Due: Tue, Mar 19, in class

Both Francis of Assisi and *Elda* saw a special relationship between religion and nature. Francis was revered; *Elda* was prosecuted. Francis was a historical person; *Elda* is the construction of a film maker. Discuss how the two films, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon* and *The Sorceress* reflect the medieval understanding of faith, creation, nature, and belief in God. How do either/both of these films relate to the world view that underlies *The Wicker Man*? 2500 words.

Final Examination (35%)

The final, essay style, examination is scheduled for two hours: April TBD. The examination will have two parts of equal weight.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Assignment Extensions

Extensions for all assignments will be granted ONLY in advance and for due cause. Documentation may be required. The burden of work in this or other courses, extracurricular activities, and employment do not constitute due cause. Late assignments will be penalized 1% per day. This mounts up fast so use your time wisely!

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

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

8.2 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. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

8.4 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.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be

noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website
<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

8.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 Recording of Materials

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

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
