

Meeting Time: T/TH 2:50-4:10pm
Location: Scott Hall 120

1. Course Description

The course will be divided into two units. The first uses the medium of film as a tool to help investigate classic philosophical issues concerning epistemology, morality, and the philosophy of religion. The second unit will address philosophical issues specific to the nature of film. Specifically, we will consider what constitutes film, whether film is a unique art form, and whether we have genuine and rational emotional responses to film.

Grading

Short Paper 1 (5 pages): 25%
Short Paper 2 (5 pages): 25%
Final Paper (8 pages): 40%
Class Participation: 10%

Papers: By the end of the semester, you will be responsible for providing me with two short papers, and one final paper. I suggest that your final paper be an expansion of one of your short papers, but this is only a suggestion. Throughout the semester, there will be a total of four sets of essay topics. It is up to you to determine which sets of topics interests you the most.

Attendance: Final grade will be reduced by 1/2 a letter grade for every 3 unexcused absences. Inform me if you are required to miss class due to a religious holiday, illness, or some other excusable obligation. In such cases, I will likely require that you provide me with a letter from your dean.

Film Screenings

You will be required to view three films. You may either view each film on your own or at the scheduled screening. If you do not attend a scheduled screening, then it is strongly advised that you use that time to discuss your current paper topic and/or draft with me during that time.

Readings

Unless otherwise indicated, all course readings will be posted online through sakai. You will not be required to purchase any texts, but you will be required to print the readings and familiarize yourself with them before the day in which the reading is assigned.

Computer and Phones

There is a strict no laptop and cell phone policy. Notify me if you have a disability which requires you to use a laptop or electronic device during class.

Academic Integrity

Familiarize yourself with the University's policy.
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

- 09/18 Movie screening: Total Recall (1990)
- 09/23 Movie screening: Total Recall (1990)
- Paper #1 due by end of 09/23
- 09/25 Discussion of the Film
Moral Philosophy: Deontology
Reading: Kant, *Groundwork* (Gendler's Anthology)
- 09/30 Moral Philosophy: Utilitarianism
Reading: Mills, *Utilitarianism*, (Gendler's Anthology)
- 10/02 Moral Philosophy: Virtue Ethics
Reading: Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*, (Gendler's Anthology)
- 10/07 Moral Philosophy: Kantian Constructivism
Reading: Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, (Gendler's Anthology)
- 10/09 Screening: I've Loved You So Long (Claudel, 2008)
- 10/14 Screening: I've Loved You So Long (Claudel, 2008)
- Prompts for Paper #2
- 10/16 Discussion of the Film (Applied Ethics and Film as a Thought Experiment)
Goodenough: "A Philosopher Goes to the Cinema"
- 10/21 Film as Art
Benjamin: "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction"
- Paper #2 due by end of 10/21
- 10/23 Photography and Representation
Carroll & Choi, Scruton: "Photography and Representation" pp. 19-34
- 10/28 What is Film?
Eisenstein "Beyond the Shot" & "The Dramaturgy of Film Form"
Kracauer "Basic Concepts"
Carroll & Choi, Cavell: "The World Viewed" pp. 67-78
- Prompts for Paper #3
- 10/30 Ontology of Film & Film and Narrative
Langer "A Note on the Film"
Carroll & Choi, Danto: "Moving Pictures"

- 11/04 Carroll: "Defining Mass Art"
Carroll: "The Power of Movies"
Carroll & Choi, Carroll: "Defining the Moving Image" pp. 100-133
- 11/06 Movie Screening: Sunset Boulevard
- 11/11 Movie Screening: Sunset Boulevard
Paper #3 due by end of 11/11
- 11/13 Film Discussion
Buckland: "Puzzle Plots"
Elsaesser: "The Mind-Game Film"
- 11/18 Fiction, Nonfiction, and Emotions
Currie: "What is Fiction"
Carroll & Choi, Walton: "Fearing Fictions" pp. 234-246
- 11/20 Carroll: "Why Horror?"
Gaut: "The Paradox of Horror"
Prompts for Paper #4 (due by end of semester)
- 11/25 Evaluative Standards of Film
Carroll & Choi: "Fiction, Non-Fiction and the Film of Presumptive Assertion"
Lane: "The Autobiographical Documentary in America"
- 11/27-11/30 Thanksgiving Break
- 12/02 (possible screening): Triumph of the Will
Carroll & Choi: Devereaux "Beauty and Evil" pp. 347-371
Gaut: "The Ethical Criticism of Art"
Carroll: "Moderate Moralism"
- 12/04 Writing workshop & presentations
- 12/09 Writing workshop & presentations
- 12/22 Last Paper Due