



School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

International Film Minor 2013-2014



Scene from *M* (Fritz Lang, Germany, 1931)

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School of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

International Film Minor: Key Facts 2013-14

BA French with International Film
BA Hispanic Studies with International Film
BA CLC with International Film

International Film Programme Co-ordinator: Professor James Williams,
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Course Structure

Students taking the International Film minor in the SMLLC will take **one course unit** of film or film-related options each year (3 in total). Your remaining nine course units must be chosen from those available to you in your main course of study. Please consult your main programme handbook for more details.

First Year:

All International Film students will take the following core courses:

ML1101 International Film 1: Contexts and Practices.

0.5 Unit. Taught in Terms 1+2.

Assessment: 90% coursework: 2 essays (first 1,200-1,500 words - 30%; second 1,500-2,000 words -- 60%). 10%: Moodle Test.

This course introduces you to the field of film studies and to key moments in the history of international cinema via a series of significant and canonical films representing various film styles and genres, and important individual filmmakers. It assumes no previous experience of studying film, and will acquaint you with the fundamentals of classical film theory and their application. Exploring the notion of 'European' film in relation to Hollywood and Latin America, and with it the idea of different national cinemas, the course encourages critical thinking both about the medium of film and the problematics of regional/national cinemas. Films studied include classic European films from the last one hundred years, including *The Third Man*, *Battleship Potemkin*, *Grand Illusion*, *Bicycle Thieves*, and *Blow-up*, as well as more recent, much discussed films such as *The Son's Room* and *Pan's Labyrinth*.

ML1102 The Birth of Film.

0.5 Unit. Taught in Term 2.

Assessment: 90% coursework: 2 essays (first 1,200-1,500 words - 30%; second 1,500-2,000 words -- 60%). 10%: Moodle Test.

The purpose of this course is to provide participants with an introduction to the early phase of international cinema. The course is concerned with the period between 1895 and 1930. During this phase, film-making was largely national but the absence of the spoken word gave film a truly cosmopolitan dimension, with directors, actors and technical personnel moving freely across national boundaries. Nonetheless distinctive national film cultures emerged, with Italy specialising in dramas set in the ancient world, France making ample use of theatre and popular literature and Germany developing the new medium often within the broader artistic phenomenon of Expressionism. The course will be concerned with film as art (and with its links to the avant-garde) but it will also examine cinema as an entertainment industry, technological innovations, the development of the documentary form, and the transition from silent to sound film.

Second Year:

ML2101 International Film II: Readings and Representations.

0.5 Unit. Taught in terms 1+2.

Assessment: 100% coursework. 2 essays: first 1,500-2,000 words – 30%, second 2,000-2,500 words – 70%.

This course is designed to follow on from your first-year core courses. You will study a range of innovative European and non-European films that will help to define the nature and meaning of ‘international cinema’ while deepening your understanding of key aspects of film theory. The course explores in particular the notion of ‘European’ and ‘non-European’ film (eg Hollywood, Latin American) within a more general discussion of European, American/Latin American history and culture. The course also encourages critical thinking and articulate analysis of aspects of film style, genre and context through close textual reading.

Plus one 0.5 unit course chosen from the following (this is a guide only, and is subject to change in future years; some courses require language skills; please ask for further details):

FR2106	Cinema in France: From Modernism to the Postmodern	0.5 unit
IT2340	Post-war Italian Cinema	0.5 unit
GM2115	History & Politics Reflected in German	0.5 unit

	Cinema 1930s-1990s	
SN2013	Constructing Identity in Contemporary Spanish Film	0.5 unit
SN2113	Twentieth-Century Mexican Visual Arts and Film [NB: only the second half of this course is concerned with film, and a post-A1 level of Spanish is required since some films lack subtitles]	0.5 unit

Final Year:

All International Film students will take the following core courses:

ML3207 Transnational Cinema

0.5 Unit. Taught in Terms 1+2.

Assessment: 90% coursework: Essay 1: 30% -- 2,000-2,500 words; Essay 2: 60% -- 2,500-3,000 words. 10% : Oral Presentation.

This course follows on from your first and second year courses and provides you with an understanding of the different modes of 'transnationalism' within the context of international film-making. It will develop further your awareness of the themes of cultural diversity, exchange and interpenetration in cinematic activity, as well as your analytical skills and critical approaches to filmic texts. The wide-ranging primary material will include, for example, key contemporary Italian-Turkish, German-Turkish and West African films.

ML3307 Dissertation (bolt-on)

0.5 Unit. Taught in Terms 1+2.

Assessment: 100% coursework: one 5,000 word dissertation.

This course is designed to help you develop your understanding and awareness of cinema's engagements with transnationalism beyond those covered in the taught half-unit. It will also allow you to advance your independent learning skills by researching a prescribed topic on your own. The range of topics is designed to be broad, from national/transnational cinema and migrant and diasporic cinema to travel cinema, identity, citizenship and ethics in transnational film, transnational networks of production, distribution and reception, Third Cinema, postcolonial cinema, world cinema and globalisation. Teaching and supervision for the dissertation consist of a combination of general group sessions on dissertation-writing skills, smaller sessions on set dissertation topics, and one-to-one supervisions with a designated supervisor made available during Office Hours. These will provide methodological advice, monitoring and feedback, as well as topic-specific discussion.

Studying:

Film Screenings

In your first year courses (and in some of your film courses in subsequent years) weekly film screenings will be arranged on campus. Details of time and venue will be confirmed at the start of term. We highly recommend that you make the effort to attend these screenings, and create a bit of atmosphere! Films shown will be on DVD or VHS, and students unable to attend the screenings should make alternative arrangements to ensure that they have viewed the set films.

Library Facilities

The Founders Library has an extensive (and growing) collection of DVDs and videos, and an extensive selection of film studies and other relevant texts and books. We recommend that you take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the library as soon as possible, and to take advantage of the film collection. The majority of the films you will study are available to borrow from the library, in most cases in multiple copies.

Departmental Collections

The Language departments each have collections of films, many of which are available for students to borrow. Please ask at the School administrative office for more details.

Viewing Facilities

Many of you will have access to a DVD player or VCR of your own, perhaps via a PC or laptop. There are additional viewing facilities in the library (please ask – it's a good idea to book these) and in the media room on the ground floor of the International Building.

Internet Resources:

Intute: A very useful online directory of film and film-related resources:

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/film/>

Some older films are out of copyright and available in various formats through online resources such as [Youtube](#) and the [Internet Archive](#). See Moodle for more details and recommendations.

Cinemas and Other Screenings

We hope you enjoy studying film, and will want to expand your knowledge of cinema and film history by taking advantage, occasionally, of the unrivalled film scene in London and the surrounding area. In addition to the many local cinemas, the following are excellent places to discover interesting and important international films:

BFI Southbank - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/incinemas/nft/>

The Barbican Centre - <http://www.barbican.org.uk/film>

London Film Festival (9-20 October 2013) - <http://www.lff.org.uk/>

The Ciné Lumière (at the French Institute) -
http://www.institutfrancais.org.uk/cinema/ci_programme.php

The Goethe Institut -
<http://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/lon/kue/flm/enindex.htm>

The Curzon + Renoir Cinemas -
<http://www.curzoncinemas.com/flash/#main>

UK Italian Film Festival (usually November)
<http://www.italianfilmfestival.org.uk/>

London German Film Festival (usually November)
<http://www.germanfilmfestival.co.uk/>

London Spanish Film Festival (usually September)
www.londonspanishfilmfestival.com

UK French Film Festival (usually November)
<http://www.frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/>

General

Do please free to speak to your tutor or personal advisor at any time if you have questions or concerns about your film studies course(s). We hope you enjoy the year. Happy viewing!

