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# French Cinema: Masculine-Feminine: France through the Lens of the Cinema

COURSE DESIGNATOR: MONT 3313

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the originality and insolence of French cinema over the past 100 years through the prism of male/female relations as revealed in certain iconic films. The framework for the course will be a dynamic, participation-based research seminar where students will be expected each week to analyze an emblematic film from a variety of perspectives (stylistic, textual, and socio-historical, etc). It is imperative that students view the films and read the required articles prior to attending class and prior to initiating their own analysis.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about the history of French cinema beginning in the 1930s, through a unique lens, that of the relationship between men and women, as various directors have chosen to depict it.
- Students will acquire the skills and vocabulary to be able to analyze and decipher the language of the cinema, with the goal of writing about films from a critical perspective.

## METHODOLOGY

The student's grade will be derived from a range of activities and assignments. These will include: regular critical essays, a 15min oral presentation of a work of their choice in connection with the course theme of "Masculin/Féminin," and finally a cinematographic analysis/study of an excerpt. In addition, students will be given the opportunity to engage in several initiation activities to the practice of creating movies, as well as to attend pedagogical outings to theaters within the "Art et essai" framework and film festivals, with the objective of learning about living and contemporary cinematographic creation.

## COURSE PREREQUISITES

Students must have a minimum level of B1 (Threshold or Intermediate) in the Common European Language Framework or have completed the equivalent of FREN 1004 in the University of Minnesota system.

## REQUIRED READINGS/ MATERIALS

*L'Atalante* de Jean Vigo 1934

*Le Nouveau Testament* et *Désiré* de Sacha Guitry 1936

*French Cancan* 1954 et *Elena et les Hommes* 1956 de Jean Renoir

*Alphaville* de Jean-Luc-Godard 1964 et *Prénom Carmen* 1983

*L'Événement le plus important depuis que l'homme a marché sur la lune* de Jacques Demy 1974 et *Réponses de femme* d'Agnès Varda 1975

*L'Homme qui aimait les femmes* de François Truffaut 1977

*Van Gogh* de Maurice Pialat 1991

*Conte d'été* d'Eric Rohmer 1995

*Un homme, un vrai* d'Arnaud et Jean-Marie Larrieu 2003

*Lady Chatterley* de Pascale Ferran 2006

*L'Apolonide souvenirs de la maison close* de Bertrand Bonello 2011

*La Graine et le Mulet* d'Abdelattif Kechiche 2006 et *Venus Noire* 2009

## GRADING

Grading Rubric		
A	93-100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87-89	
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77-79	
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
D+	67-69	
D	60-66	
F	0-59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

## SUMMARY OF HOW GRADES ARE WEIGHTED

Homework, participation, and attendance	25%
Final exam essay	75%
<b>Overall grade</b>	<b>100%</b>

## COURSE CONTENT

WEEK 1
<p><b>Course introductions and diagnostics</b></p> <p>Introductory writing assignment</p>

WEEK 2
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**Film:** *L'Atalante* de Jean Vigo 1934

WEEK 3

**Film:** *Le Nouveau Testament* et *Désiré* de Sacha Guitry 1936

WEEK 4

**Film:** *French Cancan* 1954 et *Elena et les Hommes* 1956 de Jean Renoir

WEEK 5

**Film:** *Alphaville* de Jean-Luc-Godard 1964 et *Prénom Carmen* 1983

WEEK 6

**Film:** *L'Événement le plus important depuis que l'homme a marché sur la lune* de Jacques Demy 1974 et *Réponses de femme* d'Agnès Varda 1975

WEEK 7

**Film:** *L'Homme qui aimait les femmes* de François Truffaut 1977

WEEK 8

**Film:** *Van Gogh* de Maurice Pialat 1991

WEEK 9

**Film:** *Conte d'été* d'Eric Rohmer 1995 and *Un homme, un vrai* d'Arnaud et Jean-Marie Larrieu 2003

## WEEK 10

**Films:** *Lady Chatterley* de Pascale Ferran 2006 and  
*L'Apolonide souvenirs de la maison close* de Bertrand Bonello 2011

## WEEK 11

**Film:** *La Graine et le Mulet* d'Abdelattif Kechiche 2006 et *Venus Noire* 2009

## WEEK 12

**Film:** *Tomboy* de Céline Sciamma 2011 et les jeunes réalisatrices du cinéma français

## WEEK 13

**Course conclusions and discussion**

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to be on time and attend all classes while abroad. Many instructors assess both attendance and participation when assigning a final course grade. Attendance alone does not guarantee a positive participation grade; the student should be prepared for class and engage in class discussion. See the onsite syllabus for specific class requirements.

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

#### SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

**STUDENT CONDUCT:**

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found on the Learning Abroad Center website.