

Cinema Studies

Cinema studies offers a comprehensive program of study which draws on established links with industry and the professional film community. The program is underpinned by theoretical and interpretive approaches to cinema, television and new entertainment technologies that will assist students in applying this knowledge in practical and professional frameworks. Students benefit directly from the opportunity to explore the creative and professional aspects of the cinematic arts at close range with film directors, organisers of film festivals and film distribution agencies. The academic staff are leaders in their fields and endeavour to provide new and unique approaches to interactive or on-line teaching. With a particular emphasis on viewing and analysis of film, video and television, screenings are an integral part of the program. Graduates of cinema studies find employment in a range of professional capacities and organisations such as film festivals, cinema complexes, the State Film Centre, the Australian Centre of the Moving Image, the Australian Film Institute, and Film Victoria.

Cinema studies deals with the interpretation, history and theory of cinema, television, and new visual media such as computer games and theme park spaces. Subjects cover the areas of film history, Hollywood cinema, art cinemas, documentary, ethnographic film-making, Australian cinema, genre studies (horror, comedy, film noir, the love story, etc.), television, cross-media forms such as comic books, computer games and theme park attractions. Cinema is one of the major visual and aesthetic forms of the 20th and 21st centuries; studies in this area address theoretical issues of spectatorship, postmodernism, historical poetics, postcolonialism, gender, sexuality and the body.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for first-year cinema studies subjects.

The prerequisite for a second/third-year subject in cinema studies is usually 107-132 Introduction to Hollywood & Art Cinema (p.2) and 107-133 Introduction to Film Theory (p.2).

Students who have completed suitable alternative first-year subjects are advised to consult with the Head of School for permission to enrol. Exemptions may also be granted when second/third-year subjects are taken as part of an approved interdepartmental program with its own entry requirements.

The prerequisite for a third/fourth-year subject in cinema studies is usually three second/third-year subjects in cinema studies (37.5 points).

Requirements for a major

A major in cinema studies usually consists of nine 12.5 point subjects, totaling 112.5 points. It comprises:

- two first-year subjects in cinema studies (25 points); and
- second/third-year subjects in cinema studies (87.5 points).

Two of these subjects (25 points) may be taken from related subjects offered in the School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archaeology or in other departments. A list of these subjects is available from the School.

Subjects for the major	Sem.
First year subjects	
107-132 Introduction to Hollywood & Art Cinema (p.2)	1
107-133 Introduction to Film Theory (p.2)	2
Second/third year subjects	
106-014 Hong Kong Cinema (p.4)	N/A
107-025 Postcolonialism and the Cinema (p.2)	N/A
107-037 Film and the Body (p.2)	N/A
107-075 Art House Cinema & Film Festival Culture (p.2)	N/A
107-076 Contemporary Hollywood Cinema (p.2)	N/A
107-077 Television and Australian Culture (p.2)	N/A
107-078 Italian National Cinemas (p.3)	2
107-079 Feminist Film and Television Theory (p.3)	1
107-080 Commodity Culture (p.3)	N/A
107-081 Genre Study (p.3)	N/A
107-082 The Entertainment Experience (p.3)	N/A
107-083 Film Noir: Style and History (p.3)	N/A
107-084 Surrealism and the Cinema (p.3)	N/A
107-085 Australian Cinema (p.3)	N/A
107-087 Contemporary Australian Cinema (p.4)	N/A
107-088 Love Stories: Film and Narrative Theory (p.4)	N/A
107-258 Game Studies (p.4)	1
107-267 The Cinema of Martin Scorsese (p.4)	2
107-268 Myth and Media: from Homer to Hollywood (p.4)	1
107-269 The Musical: From Hollywood to Bollywood (p.4)	2

Subjects for the major	Sem.
107-270 The 1950s: Film, Perfection & Propaganda (p.4)	1
107-271 Media Matrix: Film, Media and Morality (p.5)	2
760-241 Surrealism and the Creative Imagination (p.11)	2
760-252 Filmic Text: Special Study (p.11)	1
Third/fourth year subjects	
107-405 Spectacles: Museums to Theme Parks (p.5)	Summer
760-425 Film and Philosophy (p.12)	1
760-426 Soundtracks (p.13)	N/A
Fourth year subjects	
102-511 Imaging Australian Spaces (p.4)	2
107-403 Fine Arts 4A (p.8)	1 rep 2
107-409 Indigenous Film, Television & New Media (p.5)	N/A
107-421 Contemporary Film Theory (p.6)	1
107-427 Film Criticism and the Canon (p.6)	N/A
107-429 Ethnographic and Documentary Cinema (p.6)	2
107-431 Postmodernism and the Cinema (p.6)	N/A
107-432 Melodrama, Class and the Cinema (p.6)	N/A
107-440 Hitchcock, Film and Art (p.6)	N/A
107-463 Dream Screen: Film and Psychoanalysis (p.6)	1
107-470 The Carnavalesque and the Cinema (p.7)	2
107-487 Film, Modernity and the Avant-Garde (p.7)	2

Honours entry

The prerequisites for entry to fourth-year honours in cinema studies are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA;
- completion of a major in cinema studies;
- an average grade of H2B or higher over the second/third-year subjects within the major.

Entry to honours must be approved by the honours coordinator of the School and the Faculty of Arts honours course adviser. Forms, to be submitted to the School are available from the School office in May and September of each year.

Honours requirements

Honours coordinator: Dr Mark Nicholls

Pure honours

Students undertaking pure honours in cinema studies must complete:

- 107-522 Cinema Studies Thesis (p.5) or 107-523 Cinema Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.5) (37.5 points); and
- five honours subjects in cinema studies (50 points).

With the approval of the honours coordinator one of these subjects (12.5 points) may be a related fourth-year subject from the School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archeology or an approved fourth-year subject from another area of study.

Combined honours

Students undertaking combined honours in cinema studies and another area of study must complete:

- 107-522 Cinema Studies Thesis (p.5) or 107-523 Cinema Studies Thesis (MYE) (p.5) (37.5 points); and
- two honours subject in cinema studies (12.5 points); and
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points); and
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (25 points); and
- three honours subjects in cinema studies (25 points).

Studying overseas

The Cinema Studies Program in the School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archeology teaches a cinema studies subject in the United States in the Summer Semester. See subject entry for details:

107-405 Spectacles: Museums to Theme Parks (p.5)

or

Email: enquiries@asatravinfo.com.au

Web: <http://www.asatravinfo.com.au>

Further study

A BA with a major in cinema studies can lead to a Graduate Diploma in Arts (Cinema Studies) or a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Cinema Studies).

An honours degree in cinema studies can lead to MA or PhD degrees.

Career opportunities

Career opportunities for graduates in cinema studies are to be found in education and research, and in the arts and the film industry as administrators, media professionals, editors, reviewers, film critics and film archivists.

For more information

School of Art History, Cinema, Classics and Archaeology
Old Pathology Building
The University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010
Tel +61 3 8344 5565
Email: finearts-info@unimelb.edu.au
Web: <http://www.sfca.unimelb.edu.au>

First-year subjects

107-132 Introduction to Hollywood & Art Cinema

Note: Formerly available as 107-073. Students who have completed 107-073 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Angela Ndalianis

Contact: A 2-hour screening, a 1-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject will introduce students to the formal, stylistic and interpretative strategies that relate to narrative cinema forms. The subject will cover three interrelated areas: film narrative, film style and film history. Students should gain an understanding of aspects of narrative form and film style; the silent era; the classical Hollywood model and its dependence on the genre system (eg. the screwball comedy, the western, the musical); art cinema narration (eg. Italian neo-realism, the French new wave); narrative form and political cinema (eg. Eisenstein and political cinema); and B-films.

Assessment: An essay and take home test totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

D Bordwell & K Thompson, *Film Art: An Introduction*, 3rd ed, McGraw-Hill, 1990.

107-133 Introduction to Film Theory

Note: Formerly available as 107-074. Students who have completed 107-074 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof B Creed & Dr J Hoorn

Contact: A 1-hour lecture, a 1-hour tutorial and a 2-hour screening per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject explores key developments in film theory from the modern to postmodern period. Using authorship as a framework, it will explore the following topics: the avant-garde, psychoanalysis, feminism, postmodernism, queer and postcolonial theory. Emphasis will be on the way in which film theory has developed from the 1970s to the present in response to social and cultural change. Films will be analysed from the viewpoint of different theoretical positions to demonstrate the relative nature of criticism. Selected films by directors such as the following will be studied depending on availability: Alfred Hitchcock, Martin Scorsese, Neil Jordan, Peter Greenaway and David Cronenberg, Kathryn Bigelow. Students should complete the subject with a knowledge and understanding of key developments in film theory, including a sense that theory itself is ideological, and be able to recognise the role of the auteur in the creation of a work of art.

Assessment: A class paper, an essay and a take-home examination totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

Second/third-year subjects

107-025 Postcolonialism and the Cinema

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject examines films set in the Pacific region (Tahiti, Hawaii, Vietnam, Japan, New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines) from a postcolonial perspective, studying films from various national cinemas as well as from Hollywood. Films will be studied from a broad range of genres including film noir (William Whyler's *The Letter*), historical epic (Regis Wargnier's *Indochine*) and documentary cinema (F W Murnau's *Tabu*) as well as from entertainment cinema. In addition to this the subject will deal with films in which a postcolonial point of view underlies the directors' intentions, such as Marlon Fuente's *Bontoc Eulogy* and Clara Law's *Floating Life*. Students who complete the subject should be familiar with postcolonial theory in writing about the cinema, and with a range of films which utilise theories of postcolonialism.

107-037 Film and the Body

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year gender studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This course examines representations of the body in film and critical visual theory. It explores the relationship between desire, fantasy and the body as well as different forms of the body such as the macho, queer, S & M, tattooed, erotic, suffering, cyborg, abject and post-human body. Students should become familiar with the history and origins of the various body forms in Hollywood and in a range of other cinematic traditions. They should also be familiar with theories of the body in writing about cinema and have an understanding of debates surrounding the body in film.

107-075 Art House Cinema & Film Festival Culture

Note: Formerly available as 107-075 International Art Cinema. Students who have completed 107-075 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year European studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a study of the development of international art-house cinema and its relationship with film festival cultures. Through an examination of selected film festivals the changing nature of art-house cinema and its contemporary identity is considered in terms of its complex relationship with the international commercial market and Hollywood cinema, auteur, new wave and national movements, modernist/post modernist, avant-garde, radical, political and existential concerns, and questions of gender, sexuality and censorship. Art cinema's wider network of relationships with documentary cinema, animation, short film, video art, theatre and the art world will also be explored.

107-076 Contemporary Hollywood Cinema

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year gender studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject explores developments in the Hollywood film industry from the 1960s to the present. Students should grasp some of the key issues of this period, including the focus on modernist strategies; revisionist approaches to early Hollywood genres; the emergence of left/right cycle films; allusionism and the new generation of Hollywood film school 'auteurs' (Coppola, Spielberg, Scorsese); and the generation that followed (Burton, Tarantino, the Coens, Lee). Students will also critically evaluate film theoretical responses to the Hollywood cinema of this era.

107-077 Television and Australian Culture

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*. For cultural studies students 50 points of first-year arts including at least 25 points from a specified list of subject areas, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject forms a study of television in its multiple dimensions - aesthetic, social, cultural and institutional. The focus of the subject is on Australian television, however the influence of British and American models in the formative years will be examined. Students will also explore the recent trend towards globalisation in the electronic media in relation to contemporary Australian television programming and advertising. Topics explored may include pay television, audience reception studies, the televisual aesthetic of flow and segmentation and public access television. Students

should conclude the semester with an understanding of television in terms of different theories of the relationship between mass media, popular culture and society; the historical development of television broadcasting in Australia; the differences between televisual and cinematic forms of spectatorship; and the nature of television genres in terms of their style, structure and appeal.

107-078 Italian National Cinemas

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Mark Nicholls

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year European studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Contact: A 2.5-hour screening, a 1-hour lecture, a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is a study of the institutional and cultural aspects of national cinemas through a case study of Italian cinema and cinemas of the Italian diaspora in Australia since the second World War. The representation of regional, class and gender differences will be studied in relation to formal and aesthetic invention, postwar political and philosophical debate, issues of migration and the construction of Italian national identity. Students should complete the subject with a grasp of the concept of a national cinema in relation to contemporary art house and entertainment film production, exhibition and distribution.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-079 Feminist Film and Television Theory

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Barbara Creed

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year gender studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*. For cultural studies students 50 points of first-year arts including at least 25 points from a specified list of subject areas, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Contact: A 2-hour screening, a 1-hour lecture, a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject will explore the representation of women and men in popular Hollywood film, television and alternative films directed by women. Topics studied will include stereotyping, sexual difference, spectatorship, the erotic, pornography, soap operas, queer sexuality and political film-making. On completion of the subject students should recognise the major themes and methods in the study of the representation of women in classic Hollywood narrative cinema and television; understand the major methods in the study of the position of the female spectator; analyse the differences in the systems of representation of women in classic Hollywood, European and feminist cinemas, both independent and mainstream.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-080 Commodity Culture

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*. For cultural studies students 50 points of first-year arts including at least 25 points from a specified list of subject areas, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject forms a study of late 20th century-21st century commodity culture with a special emphasis on film, television, photography, advertising and interactive media. The relationship between advertising and commodity culture is studied in historical terms and various types of publicity, such as print and electronic advertisements, are analysed in terms of genre, myth and rhetoric. The subject is an overview of the major theoretical approaches to the study of consumer culture, such as political economy, anthropology of consumption, semiology and postmodernism. It should provide students with a framework for critical examination of commodity culture/s, art and advertising, and the commodification of aspects of everyday life such as fashion, sport, shopping and tourism.

107-081 Genre Study

Note: Bachelor of Creative Arts students may credit this subject to a Media Arts and Visual Media major at second or third year.

Availability: BA and BCA 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a close study of two genres: the western and the horror film. Students should gain an understanding of some of the following areas: the historical development of genre criticism; evolution theories of generic stages; generic crossovers; the influence of Hollywood genres outside the USA; the relationship between filmic reality and social reality. The western will be studied through its various stages of development, including the 'classical' western, the revisionist western, and the spaghetti western. The horror film component will focus on horror in the wake of Hitchcock's *Psycho* and *The Birds*, looking specifically at the stalker, splatter and apocalyptic horror tradition. Issues to be discussed will include horror and the family institution, horror as cultural ritual, self-reflexivity and genre, and horror as a form of game play.

107-082 The Entertainment Experience

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*. For cultural studies students 50 points of first-year arts including at least 25 points from a specified list of subject areas, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject will look at the interconnection between various entertainment industries. The focus will be on the emergence and significance of 'high concept' as a production and marketing strategy. The implications of the crossover between the film, television, comic book, computer game and theme park industries will also be explored. Students who complete this subject should be able to evaluate critical and theoretical frameworks in response to the shape of entertainment structures. Students will examine the central role played by new technologies in the cinema; the science fictional nature of the film medium; computer games and the collapse of linear narrative flow; the applicability of film spectatorship/identification theories in relation to these more interactive media forms, and explore alternative models of analysis, including entertainment media's relationship to the silent 'Cinema of attractions'.

107-083 Film Noir: Style and History

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year gender studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a close study of film noir texts from *Pandora's Box* to *Lost Highway* with emphasis on an evolving noir style. Topics studied will include the silent period; noir and German expressionism; noir horror; classic Hollywood noir of the 40s; postmodern noir and the evolving image of the femme fatale. Students should complete the subject with an understanding of the historical and stylistic development of the film noir body of texts from the silent period to the present; of the symbolic relevance of the changing image of the femme fatale in the film noir; and of postmodern cinematic practice in relation to contemporary film noir.

107-084 Surrealism and the Cinema

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year European studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a study of the origins, aims and features of surrealist film-making from its beginnings in dada to its contemporary manifestations in the films of Luis Bunuel and David Lynch. Topics will include surrealist politics; surrealist art; the marvellous; Hollywood influences; mad love; theatre of cruelty; and surrealist influences in comics, video clips and advertising. Students who successfully complete the subject should understand the origins of surrealist film-making; understand the political and social aims of the surrealist filmmakers; and appreciate the characteristics of avant-garde forms of artistic and filmic expression.

107-085 Australian Cinema

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject reviews the history of Australian cinema from its beginnings in the early silent period to the present. Students should become familiar with early film history; the 1970s renaissance; the road movie; gender, race and sexuality; feminist and independent film-making. These areas

will be discussed in the context of national identity and the growing debates around what constitutes a national cinema.

107-087 Contemporary Australian Cinema

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject explores the relationship between national identity and international film culture and specifically questions how filmic structures operate in Australian cinema to produce identities which have both local and international resonance. Students will examine the success of films such as *Crocodile Dundee* and *Mad Max* within the context of mass culture; *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Dallas Doll*, and *The Sum of Us* within the context of queer theory; *Romper Stomper* within a context of teen films; and *Strictly Ballroom* within questions of multiculturalism and ethnicity. The representation of race will form an additional focus of study. The films of Australian directors working in Hollywood such as Gillian Armstrong and Baz Luhrman will also form an area of study.

107-088 Love Stories: Film and Narrative Theory

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*, or first-year gender studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject is a study of narrative forms in relation to the love story in its many manifestations. Prescribed films will explore areas such as romantic love, mad love (*l'amour fou*), forbidden love, perverse and melancholic love. Students should become familiar with topics such as melodrama, film narrative and the structuralist controversy; the relationship between myth and narrative; classical and alternative narrative forms; narrative and audience; the feminist critique of the Hollywood classical narrative; postmodern narrative forms. There will be a special emphasis on issues of gender and the male melodrama.

107-258 Game Studies

Note: Formerly available as 107-089 and 107-426. Students who have completed 107-089/426 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Angela Ndalians

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Contact: A 1.5-hour lecture, a 1-hour tutorial per week, and no more than five 2-hour lab sessions over the semester (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject will analyse the dramatic impact that computer games have had in transforming contemporary entertainment media. The subject will deal with the historical development of computer gaming from the earlier two-dimensional experiences offered by the era of Pong to the current 3D and online environments of the Final Fantasy games and Everquest series. Focus will be on the new visual and narrative formations that are offered by a variety of formats, including computer, Playstation 2, and X-Box. Industry and aesthetic connections with the cinema will be explored, as will the game genres' transformation of cinematic and other entertainment genres. The increased reliance on artificial intelligence engines will be considered, as will the artificial beings, avatars and virtual creatures that populate game environments like *Black and White*, the *Sims* and the *Quakeseries*. The subject will examine the emergence of such beings in light of their history and their fictional depiction in science fiction cinema. Students should complete the subject with an understanding of the historical development of computer game forms, genres and technological and material histories, and be able to critically evaluate the applicability of various theoretical models, such as theories of spectatorship, myth, hypertext/media, ludology to computer game technology. They will also be able to account for the complex conglomerate overlaps and marketing principles that drive entertainment institutions - the game industry being one of the most lucrative.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-267 The Cinema of Martin Scorsese

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Mark Nicholls

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Contact: A 1-hour lecture, a 1-hour tutorial and a 2.5-hour screening per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: Through a case study of the films of director Martin Scorsese, this subject examines the role played by a director's body of work in the study of the cinema, its history and theory. The subject asks students to consider the way the study of a director can promote rich readings and understandings of film culture. Since the 1970s, Martin Scorsese has emerged as a key figure of New Hollywood Cinema. His creative output as producer and director has had a significant influence upon a new generation of filmmakers. Through a detailed analysis of Scorsese's narrative fiction and documentary films including *Raging Bull*, *The Age of Innocence*, *A Personal Journey* and *My Italian Voyage*, students will explore the work of earlier films, such as *Peeping Tom*, *The Searchers*, *The Bandwagon* and *The Leopard*, which Scorsese has championed and which surround and inform his work. In addition, the course evaluates the dramatic impact Scorsese's films have had on contemporary film and television culture from the film repertoire of Tarantino to the modern gangster culture represented in the television series *The Sopranos*. Expanding on the discourse that auteurism initiated in the 1950s-60s, this subject emphasises the dynamic interaction existing between film history, filmmakers, and film culture past and present, as well as its critical and theoretical implications.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

L Stern, *The Scorsese Connection*, Indiana University Press 1995. • M Nicholls, *Male Melancholia and the Mob: The Films of Martin Scorsese*, Pluto Press 2003.

107-268 Myth and Media: from Homer to Hollywood

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Drs Angela Ndalians/Parshia Lee-Stecum

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)* or classical studies and archaeology.

Contact: A 2-hour screening, a 1-hour lecture and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject examines the changing nature of myth, from Homer's *Odyssey* through to the concept of a modern myth. Consideration will be given to the significance of myth's persistent presence in human culture. Students will examine the way myths change over time as they are retold in different eras and in different media, including oral transmission, written texts, film, television and computer games. The subject will investigate how new myths (from Plato's Atlantis to comic-book superheroes such as Batman and the X-Men) are created, and focus will be on evaluating the rationale behind the cultural and historical shifts that can alter basic mythic patterns. Various theories of myth will be explored, including structuralism, psychoanalysis, genre, semiotics, myth-ritual theory and postmodernism. The subject considers myth both in terms of conscious and unconscious processes, addressing issues of authorship, reception, self-reflexivity and marketing. Students should gain an inter-disciplinary understanding of myth theories and be able to apply them to diverse texts and media.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-269 The Musical: From Hollywood to Bollywood

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Jeanette Hoorn

Prerequisites: Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*.

Contact: A 2.5-hour screening, a 1-hour lecture, and a 1-hour tutorial per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: The subject traces the emergence of the musical from the 1930's to the present through the media of film and television. Beginning with the early musical of the major Hollywood studios such as MGM, Warner Brothers and Paramount, students will analyse the content and style of the musical, placing it in the context of the history of the entertainment industry. The representation of race, class, gender and sexuality are examined through post-structuralist theory and the political content of narratives is considered. The role of the star, and the marketing of the musical through commercial outlets such as the department store is examined. Censorship, fashion, distribution and the place of the musical in American culture is considered.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-270 The 1950s: Film, Perfection & Propaganda

Availability: 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Angela Ndaliansi**Prerequisites:** Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites* (p.1).**Contact:** A 1-hour lecture, a 1-hour tutorial and a 2-hour screening per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject will focus on the decade of the 1950s as a radical turning point in cinematic history. Considering the integral relationship that exists between the film product and society, attention will turn to key historical, economic and technological factors that affected the formal and aesthetic properties of the cinema. The darker side of 1950s Hollywood will be investigated by looking at the restructuring of the studio structure, the effect of McCarthyism, the HUAC hearings and the silencing of 'dissenting' voices. Themes and theoretical issues will include: cold war propaganda; gender, race, class and ethnicity; consumerism; ideology; the establishment of a critical and theoretical film culture. Emphasis will also be placed on the popularity of television, the shift to suburbia and the impact on film viewing and production; the rise of a new leisure culture and audience concerns with the more active experiences offered by new immersive, surround sound and wide-screen film technologies such as Cinerama, Cinemascope and 3D, and by new spectacle genres; the redefinition of the star system; the popularity of Walt Disney, the birth of the film-themed park, and the beginnings of conglomeration; the influence of Hollywood B-film production and the resurgence of interest in experimental film production; the impact on and the impact of European and Japanese cinemas.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.**107-271 Media Matrix: Film, Media and Morality****Availability:** 2nd and 3rd year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Assoc Prof Barbara Creed**Prerequisites:** Usually 25 points of first-year cinema studies, see *Prerequisites* (p.1).**Contact:** Two 1-hour lectures, a 1-hour tutorial and a 2-hour screening per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject examines the changes which have taken place from the early period of the cinema to new media and the Internet in relation to the representation of sexual, moral and ethical issues. It will focus on the increasing openness of the public sphere in relation to sexual issues and the way in which the cinema became a focal point for such debates. This subject will cover the importance of the public sphere in censorship debates and the way in which these debates have changed in relation to questions of film, pornography, new media and the Internet. The course will also explore: the changes that have taken place from the early period of the cinema to new media and the Internet in relation to the representation of sexual, moral and ethical issues; the various factors which have influenced the representation of sexuality in film and the media such as gender, race, and sexual preference as well as the profound changes ushered in by modernity.

Assessment: Written work totalling 4000 words.**Prescribed texts:** B A Creed, *Media matrix: Sexing the New Reality*, Allen & Unwin 2003.**106-014 Hong Kong Cinema**

See full subject details on page 4.

760-241 Surrealism and the Creative Imagination

See full subject details on page 11.

760-252 Filmic Text: Special Study

See full subject details on page 11.

Third/fourth-year subjects**107-405 Spectacles: Museums to Theme Parks**

Note: Special entry conditions apply. Itinerary and travel arrangements available from Australians Studying Abroad. Prospective students must register with ASA prior to approval of enrolment at <http://www.asatravinfo.com.au>.

Availability: 3rd and 4th year**Credit points:** 25**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Angela Ndaliansi & Dr Alison Inglis**Prerequisites:** 37.5 points of cinema studies for third year, or admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies for fourth year, see *Honours entry* (p.1).**Contact:** An intensive 23-day fieldwork program in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Orlando and New York in November/December 2004. As well as site visitsthere will be the equivalent of 2-hour on-site lectures and 2-hour tutorials per day (*Summer semester*).

Description: This subject is taught in the United States during a 21-day study tour. The subject is concerned with exploring the concept of spectacle and display in contemporary urban environments. The focus will be on key spectacle venues in selected cities of the US: New York, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Orlando. The primary models of analysis will be the museum and the theme park, and their role and function as spectacular spaces within the twenty-first century city. The impact of new media technologies within the contexts of consumerism and 'infotainment' will be explored through specific case studies found in the theme park and museum sectors. Cinematic and spectacular features of these microcosms of culture will be tested against current arguments concerned with the 'empty spectacle' of our postmodern era. Attention will be drawn to the theme park-logic that infiltrates these urban structures as evidenced especially in the city of Las Vegas. Sites to be visited will include The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, the Museum of Film and Television, the Frick Museum, Museum of the American Indian, Rockefeller Center/NBC studios, the Picture Palaces, Disneyland/Disneyworld, Universal Studios & Islands of Adventure, Getty Museums, Huntington Library/Museum, San Simeon (Hearst Castle), Vegas casino/theme parks.

Assessment: Written work comprising a paper, journal, and essay totalling 8000 words for 3rd year, 10 000 words for 4th year.**Prescribed texts:** A subject reader will be available.**760-425 Film and Philosophy**

See full subject details on page 12.

760-426 Soundtracks

See full subject details on page 13.

Fourth-year subjects**107-522 Cinema Studies Thesis****Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 37.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** fourth year coordinator**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry* (p.1).**Contact:** Regular contact with the supervisor (*Year long*).**Description:** A topic selected in consultation with the coordinator.**Assessment:** A 12 000-word thesis.**107-523 Cinema Studies Thesis (MYE)****Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 37.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** fourth year coordinator**Prerequisites:** Mid-year admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry* (p.1).**Contact:** Regular contact with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).**Description:** A topic selected in consultation with the coordinator.**Assessment:** A 12 000-word thesis.**107-403 Fine Arts 4A**

See full subject details on page 8.

107-409 Indigenous Film, Television & New Media**Availability:** 4th year**Credit points:** 12.5**HECS-band:** 1**Coordinator:** Dr Jeanette Hoon**Prerequisites:** Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry* (p.1).**Contact:** A 2-hour film screening and a 2-hour seminar per week (*Not Offered*).

Description: This subject examines Indigenous film, television, photography and new media from the three distinct but interrelated perspectives of aesthetics/theory, pragmatics, and history. Aesthetic responses to the conventions of different forms of screen culture and photography will be considered in relation to an engagement with current theoretical frameworks drawn from psychoanalytic, post-colonial, post-structural and queer theories. This aspect of the course is designed to generate new critical responses to the material studied. The pragmatic perspective focuses on the realities of filmmaking and television production, which are explored through an examination of funding, access and policy issues. How are indigenous film, television and new media fostered? What techniques and devices are employed in their promotion and distribution? How do the changing ideologies of arts industries reflect notions

of Indigeneity? Finally, the historical perspective will provide a background on which to base the aforementioned analyses. Each week will cover a different aspect of the history of Indigenous involvement in film, television and new media, beginning with photography.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-421 Contemporary Film Theory

Note: Formerly available as 107-096. Students who have completed 107-096 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Angela Ndalianis

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)*.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar and 2-hour screening per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject will examine the development of contemporary film theory of the post-1968 period. Students will be expected to critically evaluate the significance and applicability of some of the following theoretical approaches: formalism and structuralism; apparatus theory; feminist film theory and spectatorship; Lacanian and Althusserian paradigms; postmodernism; queer, and postcolonial theory. In particular, the emphasis will be on redressing the balance in a tradition of film theories that have favoured vision over sound. Through the writings of Altman, Kassabian, Lastra and others, consideration will be given to the significance that film sound has in the context of film "spectatorship", materiality, technology and interpretation. Students will attend seminars that involve a variety of approaches: close analysis, close readings, research, thesis writing, paper presentation. Finally, students will be required to present a paper based on a close reading of a specific film text with reference to its use of film language. Students will also conduct research into this film in relation to its production history, distribution and reception and relate their findings as to the place of the film within the history of film theory.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-427 Film Criticism and the Canon

Note: Formerly available as 107-090. Students who have completed 107-090 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Usually 37.5 points of second/third-year cinema studies for third year, see *Prerequisites (p.1)*. Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject introduces students to the history and theory of film criticism through a study of key films and major critiques surrounding them. Students will explore the reasons why certain films are lauded as canonical and others are not. Areas for consideration will include film aesthetics, audience reception, promotion, the historical period, popular taste and the question of originality. The issue of what constitutes high art or classical cinema as distinct from the popular or B-grade cinema will be central. Films will be selected from those generally considered as part of the canon such as D W Griffiths's *Intolerance*, Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane* and Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon* as well as those regarded as outside the canon - or simply 'bad' - such as Ed Wood's *Plan 5 from Outer Space* and *Glen or Glenda*. The reasons why 'bad' films acquire cult status will also be considered. Emphasis will be on the role of criticism in constructing a so-called 'canon' and what we mean by the 'canon' in the age of postmodernism, which parodies or plays with all classical or modernist concepts.

107-429 Ethnographic and Documentary Cinema

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Jeanette Hoorn

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)*.

Contact: A 2-hour screening and a 2-hour seminar per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject investigates the place of documentary and ethnographic film in contemporary film theory. Students should become familiar with the postmodern debate surrounding documentary film-making and realism, and the critique of ethnographic cinema as linked to nationalism and imperialism. The films of French, British, American and Australian ethnographers are taken up, with classic works such as F W Murnau's and Flaherty's *Tabu: A Story of the South Seas* (1931) among those studied. Recent films which are critical of ethnography and the ethnographic gaze such as Marlon Fuentes's *Bontoc Eulogy* (1996) are considered. The use of ethnography for

entertainment as well as surveillance is examined through popular movies such as *The Gods Must be Crazy*. Students should develop a knowledge of the four classic modes of documentary cinema, namely the Griersonian, 'cinema verite', direct interview and self-reflexive modes; of the relationship between documentary and ethnographic cinema; and of the colonial propaganda film.

Assessment: A class paper and an essay totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-431 Postmodernism and the Cinema

Note: Formerly available as 107-092. Students who have completed 107-092 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject will explore the relevance of postmodern theory for the cinema, in particular the problem of defining the postmodern. Students will discuss postmodernism's heterogeneity and intertextuality; cinematic pastiche and parody; the critique of the master discourses as they effect film narrative; the relationship between the avant-garde in film and postmodernism; issues of film spectatorship, gender and race; the traditional advocacy of classic art over popular culture. The subject will explore the writings (in relation to postmodernism and film) of Jean Baudrillard, Umberto Eco, Fredric Jameson, Linda Hutcheon, Vivian Sobchack and Kobena Mercer. On conclusion of the subject students should understand the meaning of 'postmodernism' and the reasons why the concept is difficult to define and the relevance of postmodernism for an analysis of the cinema in relation to form, style and content.

107-432 Melodrama, Class and the Cinema

Note: Formerly available as 107-051. Students who have completed 107-051 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)*.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: This subject involves a study of the role the melodrama has played in the representation of class and ideological conflict in the cinema. Students are asked to examine melodramas from various periods such as the silent period, the 1930s, the 1950s and contemporary cinema, from both mainstream narrative and art cinema traditions. They will encounter theoretical writings on class and ideology in the subject's interrogation of the melodrama's tendency to expose ideological contradictions at a domestic and political level. This subject enables students to understand issues of film form, gender, sexuality and psychoanalysis in relation to the melodrama's complex representation of class in the cinema.

107-440 Hitchcock, Film and Art

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies.

Semester: Not Offered

Description: Alfred Hitchcock is one of the greatest directors of the 20th century. Recently a number of international exhibitions have documented the receptiveness of Hitchcock's films to the literary and visual arts of his time - from Pre-Raphaelite and Symbolist paintings to the writings of Edgar Allan Poe, German expressionism, surrealism and modernism. Hitchcock's films have been influenced by artists such as Sickert, Klee, Magritte, de Chirico and Dali and have also exerted a powerful influence on contemporary artists and filmmakers such as Stan Douglas, Cindy Sherman and Chris Marker. This subject seeks to establish his place in art history as well as the film canon and to contextualise the Hitchcockian oeuvre both historically and aesthetically. It also asks the question - what are the factors which have contributed to Hitchcock's extraordinary genius and phenomenal popularity?

107-463 Dream Screen: Film and Psychoanalysis

Note: Formerly available as 107-093. Students who have completed 107-093 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Mark Nicholls

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)* or the Bachelor of Creative Arts (Honours).

Contact: A 2-hour seminar and a 2.5-hour screening per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject involves a close study of film texts in relation to key psychoanalytic concepts with emphasis on Jungian archetypal theory; the Lacanian concept of the mirror phase; and Freudian theories of the dream work, sexual difference, primal scenes, and the uncanny. Relevant theories of Melanie Klein, Julia Kristeva, Derrida, Deleuze and Guattari will also be considered. Students who complete this subject should demonstrate an understanding of aspects of various psychoanalytic theories; an ability to draw on psychoanalytic theories to interpret film texts and artworks; an understanding of the above in relation to the specific psychoanalytic theories of the cinema developed by Metz, Mulvey, Studlar and Eberwein.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-470 The Carnavalesque and the Cinema

Note: Formerly available as 107-094. Students who have completed 107-094 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Dr Angela Ndalians

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)*.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar and a 2-hour screening per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject will examine the significance that theories of the carnivalesque have for the analysis of the cinema. The historical context of carnival culture will be considered, as will its continued significance and redefinition in the contemporary era. In particular students should become familiar with various interpretative theoretical issues that drive carnival logic, and the implications behind its capacity to violate generic boundaries, to rupture classical narrative form, and to contest socially and gendered dominant orders. Areas to be explored will include: parallels between comedy, cult and the carnivalesque; the interrelationship between fairy tales and carnival form; the legend of Gilles de Rais; the disruptive and carnival nature of vampire and Gothic cinema; pleasure, the grotesque and liminal nature of the carnivalesque.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

107-487 Film, Modernity and the Avant-Garde

Note: Formerly available as 107-095. Students who have completed 107-095 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

HECS-band: 1

Coordinator: Assoc Prof Barbara Creed

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in cinema studies or cultural studies, see *Honours entry (p.1)*.

Contact: A 2-hour seminar and a 2-hour screening per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject will explore the relationship between film, modernity and the avant-garde. Students should develop a knowledge of the history of the cinema and its origins in new visual forms of modernity, such as photography and 19th century visual devices, such as the diorama, zoetrope and viviscope. Particular reference will be given to the writings of Freud and related aspects of modernity such as the shock of the new, the double, war and horror, the city and depersonalisation, the body and nostalgia. The European avant-garde will be compared briefly to developments in later avant-garde cinema. Concepts such as time, speed, travel and space will be explored in relation to key films, such as *Nosferatu*, *Blood of a Poet*, *L'Age D'or*, *Metropolis*, *The Student of Prague*, *Pandora's Box*, *Last Year at Marienbad*, *India Song* and *Weekend*.

Assessment: Written work totalling 5000 words.

Prescribed texts: A subject reader will be available.

102-511 Imaging Australian Spaces

See full subject details on page 4.

