Florida International University – Department of Modern Languages
SPRING 2021 FRE 4391 U01 French Cinema  Meetings: XXXXX  Room: XXXXX

Instructor: Dr. María Antonieta GARCÍA  Office: DM  Ph. 305-348-3521
Email: garciahd@fiu.edu  Office hours: Mondays XXXXX and by appointment

WHY STUDY FRENCH CINEMA?

Hailed as the “seventh art” by European intellectuals and artists -because it synthesizes the spatial and the temporal arts-, cinema has played a unique role in our world since the appearance of the first filmmakers in history. The Lumière brothers had their first commercial projections in 1895 in “Cinéma Lumière”, probably the first movie house in the world. At the same time a language and an art, cinema combines technology, ideas, fantasy and history to reflect society, both past and present. This course, conducted simultaneously in French and English, examines the notion of French culture through the lens of cinema and introduces the students to the cinema of France, from its origins to our present times. Through diversified visual readings of history, and by placing selected works in their historical and cultural context, we will reflect on how cinema provides a plurality of views on the French society. Colonialism, feminism, the French resistance during the Nazi occupation, historical French icons, and immigration to the Hexagon, are some of the controversial and relevant topics we will explore. We will further our study of the French society by comparing and contrasting it to the world cultures. The central theme of our course is this: The seventh art has greatly evolved from its birth in the nineteenth century to our present day. In spite of all the artistic/technological and societal changes, which are the specific characteristics that we can attribute to French cinema that set it apart from the cinema of other areas of the world? In other words, what makes a movie French?

OBJECTIVES & STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By means of class discussions, viewings, readings, oral presentations and writing, students in the French program will develop their oral and written communication skills in the target language. This course counts towards the major and minor in French and the French Language and Culture Professional Certificate. It has FRE 3420 or FRE 3421 or permission of the instructor as pre-requisites.

Students in all non-French programs will acquire an understanding of French cinema and of what we call the French civilization. Pre-requisites: ENC 1101, ENC 1102, or ENC 2304.

This Discipline-Specific Global Learning course counts towards your global learning graduation requirement.
Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Analyze a visual text in a historical perspective
- Validate how film narrations can depict the political/social/economic conditions of a particular place and time
- Demonstrate an understanding of the evolution of the French society as seen through the cinema lens

Global Learning Course Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, you will:

- Interpret the interrelatedness of French and world cinema and cultures (Global Awareness)
- Construct a multi-perspective analysis of visual texts, discourses, and representations of French speaking peoples produced in the Hexagon and abroad (Global Perspective)
- Exhibit willingness to address contemporary issues faced by the present multi-cultural Francophone and non-Francophone societies (Global Engagement)

ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES

In our survey-type course, we will dedicate one week to each decade of French film production from the beginnings of cinema to our present time. I will engage you with visual and written texts that will compose the bilingual textbook for this class in a holistic approach that is historical, conceptual, cultural, and specifically cinematic. Each day we will view excerpts from three different films belonging to the same decade and you will choose one of these films to watch entirely in your own time. In addition, you will participate in a group project that will require watching three films of your choice not listed in the syllabus. Through these viewings/readings, Socratic Circles and class discussions and debates, we will explore the work of some of the greatest filmmakers in history.

TEXTBOOKS

No textbook needed. I will provide you with required reading material.

ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS POLICY

Your presence and undivided attention and punctuality are essential and your absence/tardiness will affect your participation grade negatively. If you must be absent one day, you are still responsible for any assignment given for the next day you come to class, and for bringing all pertaining documentation to justify your absence. Late assignments will receive a lower grade per day late.
CELL PHONES, RECORDING DEVICES, & LAPTOPS

Human interaction will be the mode for communicating in this class. Please turn off and put away cell phones and laptops upon entering the classroom. Class notes and activities will require pen and paper.

GRADING RATIONALE

A note to native/heritage speakers: Please be aware that being a native/heritage speaker of French does not guarantee good marks in itself. All students must comply with the requisites for this class and must show not only a good command of the language but also a good measure of critical thinking.

A In a thought provocative approach, you demonstrate a clear and in depth understanding of the general cultural, socio-historical and philosophical contexts in which the literary/art works have developed.

B You demonstrate a good understanding of the above-mentioned issues but you do not cover them in as much depth or detail.

C You demonstrate a partial understanding of the above-mentioned issues or you fail to address topics.

D You demonstrate little or no understanding of the above-mentioned issues, you fail to address topics, or you present them at an inappropriate too basic level.

100-95 A  94-90 A-  89-85 B+  85-82 B  82-80 B-  79-77 C+  76-70 C  69-60 D  59-0 F

There are no make-up exams and/or assignments unless justified by extreme circumstances appropriately documented in hard copy.

POLICY FOR ASSIGNING AN "I" INCOMPLETE GRADE

An incomplete grade is a temporary symbol for work not completed because of serious interruption not caused by the student’s own negligence. Please see https://onestop.fiu.edu/classes/grades/
Grading will take place as follows:

- **2 Essential Questions Assessment and 1 Reflection Paper***: 5%
- **Daily Preparation & Class Participation****: 15%
- **10 Short quizzes***: 40%
- **Oral group presentation***: 15%
- **Research paper***: 20%
- **Co-curricular Activities**: 5%

* There will be no make-ups unless justified by extreme circumstances appropriately documented.
** Unjustified absences/tardiness will affect this portion of your grade negatively.

**Essential Questions & Reflection Paper Assessments (5%)**

The first Essential Questions assessment will give you the opportunity to examine your preconceived notions of what French cinema is and what constitutes a valuable film. During the semester, in preparation for your oral group presentation, you will watch three (3) films of your choice not listed in the syllabus. At the end of the semester, you will answer the same Essential Questions assessment to compare and contrast the evolution in your concepts. You will be able to use those particular films to support your arguments. You will explain your thought process in writing in a one-page reflection paper and orally in our final class discussion, in alignment with our objectives of global awareness, global perspective, and global engagement.

**Daily Preparation & Class Participation (15%)**

You will often receive differential assignments that you will complete before each class session. These contrasted readings/viewings will allow you to participate more actively in class discussions.

**Short quizzes (40%)** There will be a total of eleven (11) short written quizzes. The first quiz will be on the material studied during the first class session and will be the same for all students. Since we will watch in class excerpts from 3 different films each day but you will watch one of the 3 films entirely in your own time, quizzes 2-11 will consist of three different questions, one question for each of the 3 films presented the previous week. You will answer the question pertaining to the film you chose to watch entirely. Quizzes will take place at the beginning of class and will last 15-20 minutes. Please be punctual. We will drop the lowest 10 grades and we will drop the lowest one. There are no make-ups for exams and/or assignments unless justified by extreme circumstances appropriately documented.

**Oral group presentations (15%)**

An oral presentation limited to 20 minutes will allow each group of three (3) members to compare and contrast a French film (presented in class or not) with 3 films of your choice from another country/culture, in alignment with our objectives of global awareness, global perspective, and global engagement. Each member of the group will investigate the representation of a different element in the 3 films chosen: race, language, politics, religion, economics, etc. Your personal interests will guide your research. I will evaluate your performance according to the rubric below.
**CAUSERIE GRADING FORM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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**Name:**

<table>
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<th>I. Vocabulary within context</th>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>minimal</td>
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<tr>
<th>II. Functions/Use of language (i.e., give basic information, enumerate/describe, ask basic questions, express likes/dislikes)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>(few)</td>
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<th>III. Accuracy in use of basic structures (i.e., subject-verb / noun-adjective agreement, basic word order, negation)</th>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>very poor, interferes with communication</td>
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<th>IV. Fluency</th>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>very poor, groping, hesitant</td>
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<td>confident</td>
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<th>V. Pronunciation and intonation</th>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>very poor, greatly interferes, intonation</td>
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<tr>
<td>does not interfere</td>
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<th>VI. Reaction/Appropriateness/response</th>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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<td>very poor, sometimes appropriate</td>
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<th>VII. Activity and examination of learned material</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>no attempt</td>
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<tr>
<td>some attempt</td>
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Research paper (20%) In this dissertation on the work of an accomplished filmmaker, you will critically analyze a minimum of three (3) of his/her films. Your paper, presented according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) style, will be 5-7 pages in length, font Times New Roman 12 and will have a bibliography of at least five entries. The volume of quotations in this paper will not exceed 15% of the total work. Instructions on how to present this paper will be given in class throughout the semester. You will submit your paper to TURNITIN, an internet-based plagiarism detection service that screens students' papers for verbatim text and identifies the sources. You will go to www.turnitin.com and follow the prompts. I will approve the topic of your final paper anytime during the semester up to February 22nd. I will evaluate your written production according to the rubric below.

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<tr>
<th>Writing Rubric</th>
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<td>6 Superior Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response to the Topic</td>
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<td>Understanding and Use of the Passage</td>
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<td>Quality and Clarity of Thought</td>
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<td>Organisation, Development, and Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syntax and Command of Language</td>
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<td>Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics</td>
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Plagiarism is defined by FIU as “the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student, who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including Internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism”. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses that could lead to expulsion from the University.

Co-curricular activities:
Students in the French program: Since language cannot be separated from culture, you will participate in five (5) of the many cultural activities organized by Le Cercle Français and Pi Delta Phi throughout the semester. You will write a one-page reflection paper on three (3) of these activities in French.
Students who are not in the French program: you may choose to engage in 5 community/philanthropy activities and skip the French language activities. You will write a one-page reflection paper on three (3) of these activities in English.
All students: Your papers will be evidence of your global awareness, global perspective, and/or global engagement.
French Language & Lab. Hours:

MMC Campus: SIPA 240, ph. 305-348 6596
BBC Campus: Academic II, room 214, ph. 305.919.5872
Hours available at http://dll.fiu.edu/languages/
For free tutorial help, visit http://dll.fiu.edu/languages/sipa-240-tutoring/

Early Alert

In an effort to help you succeed in your academic courses, FIU utilizes an Early Alert system. Instructors are now able to notify students’ academic advisors if there are concerns about class performance. If an alert is submitted, your academic advisor will send you a message via your Student Dashboard (accessed via your MYFIU page) to discuss ways to improve your performance. Please respond to any communication you receive from your academic advisor related to an early alert. Our goal with this program is to help you to be successful by identifying any issues as early on as possible and working to address them.

Panthers Care

Life in college is an exciting time—many say it’s the best time of their life. But being a college student can be hard and sometimes we all just need a little help. If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow Panther, you’ve come to the right place. We encourage you to reach out and speak up in behalf of those who may be too shy or uncomfortable to ask for help. Together we can create a culture of inclusivity and care on our campuses. Always remember to help your peers because at FIU, Panthers Care.

About Emergency Aid Sexual Assault Prevention Training Helpful Links It’s On Us Sharing Your Concern Step Up! Student Food Pantry Resources for Undocumented Students Contact Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs 11200 SW 8th St. GC 219 Miami, FL 33199 305-348-2797 dos@fiu.edu Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm

Counseling & Psychological Services

Counseling and Psychological Services’ mission is to provide mental health services to students that will facilitate and enhance their personal learning, emotional well-being and academic skills development. CAPS is committed to providing consultation to the FIU community affected by threatened or actual violence and promoting the ability to live a full, rich life.
Contact
MMC
SHC 270
305-348-2277(CAPS)
Hours of Operation
Monday - Thursday: 8 AM - 6:30 PM
Friday: 8 AM - 5 PM
Same Day Consultation Hours
Monday - Thursday: 9:15 AM - 3:45 PM
Friday: 11:15 AM - 2:45 PM

BBC
WUC 320
305-919-5305
Hours of Operation
Monday – Thursdays: 8 AM – 5 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Same Day Consultation Hours
Monday – Thursday: 8 AM – 3 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASS DISCUSSIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND DATES

The instructor reserves the right to make necessary changes to the syllabus.
All the films in this syllabus are available to you in the FIU libraries or via Kanopy, Youtube, Netflix, etc.

Week 1/January 11
Introductions and Introduction to the course. Beginnings of cinema
Essential Questions
  - Lumière Brothers
  - Georges Méliès

Week 2/ January 18
MARTIN LUTHER KING Holiday. University closed

Week 3/ January 25
Quiz 1 on the beginnings of cinema
The cinema of the 1920’s
  - Luis Buñuel, _Un Chien andalou/An Andalusian Dog_
  - René Clair, _Un Chapeau de paille d'Italie/An Italian Straw Hat_
  - Carl Theodore Dreyer, _La Passion de Jeanne d’Arc/The Passion of Joan of Arc_

Week 4/February 1
Quiz 2 on the cinema of the 1920’s
The cinema of the 1930’s
  - Jean Renoir, _La Règle du Jeu/Rules of the Game_
  - Jean Vigo, _L’Atalante_
  - Marcel Carné, _Le jour se lève/Daybreak_

Week 5/February 8
Quiz 3 on the cinema of the 1930’s
The cinema of the 1940’s
  - Jean Cocteau, _La Belle et la Bête/Beauty and the Beast_
  - Marcel Carné, _Les enfants du paradis/Children of Paradise_
  - Jacques Tati, _Jour de fête/The Big Day_

Week 6/February 15
Quiz 4 on the cinema of the 1940’s
The cinema of the 1950’s
  - Claude Chabrol, _Le beau Serge_
  - François Truffaut, _Les 400 coups/The 400 Blows_
  - Alain Resnais, _Hiroshima mon amour_

Do not copy without the express written consent of the instructor.
Week 7/February 22  
Quiz 5 on the cinema of the 1950’s  
The cinema of the 1960’s  
  o Jean-Luc Godard, A bout de souffle/Breathless  
  o Jacques Demy, Les parapluies de Cherbourg/The Umbrellas of Cherbourg  
  o Luis Buñuel, Belle de Jour  
Deadline to submit the topic of your research paper

Week 8/March 1  
SPRING BREAK

Week 9/March 8  
Quiz 6 on the cinema of the 1960’s  
The cinema of the 1970’s  
  o Louis Malle, Lacombe Lucien  
  o François Truffaut, L’Histoire d’Adèle H./The Story of Adèle H.  
  o Pierre Melville, Le Cercle rouge/The Red Circle

Oral Presentations

Week 10/March 15  
Quiz 7 on the cinema of the 1970’s  
The cinema of the 1980’s  
  o Agnès Varda, Cléo de 5 à 7/Cléo from 5 to 7  
  o Daniel Vigne, Le Retour de Martin Guerre/The Return of Martin Guerre  
  o Maurice Pialat, A nos amours/To Our Loves

Oral Presentations

Week 11/March 22  
Quiz 8 on the cinema of the 1980’s  
The cinema of the 1990’s  
  o Jean-Paul Rappeneau, Cyrano de Bergerac  
  o Mathieu Kassovits, La Haine/Hate  
  o Eric Rohmer, Conte d’hiver/A Tale of Winter

Oral Presentations

Week 12/March 29  
Quiz 9 on the cinema of the 1990’s  
The cinema of the 2000’s  
  o Roman Polanski, Le pianiste/The Pianist  
  o François Ozon, Sous le sable/Under the Sand  
  o Abdellatif Kechiche, La graine et le mulet/The Secret of the Grain

Oral Presentations
Week 13/April 5

Quiz 10 on the cinema of the 2000's

The cinema after 2010
- Xavier Beauvois, Des dieux et des hommes/Of Gods and Men
- Nakache & Toledano, Intouchables/The Untouchables
- Michael Haneke, Amour/Love

Oral Presentations

Research Paper is due in hard copy and in Turnitin

Week 14/April 12

Quiz 11 on the cinema after 2010

Cannes Film Festival in the last 5 years
- 2016 Un certain regard: Best scenario: Voir du pays/The Stopover
- 2017 Prix de la poésie du cinéma: Barbara
- 2018 Best film: 120 BPM
- 2019 Best female role: Chambre 2012
- 2020: Cancelled due to Covid-19

Oral Presentations

Week 15/April 19

Bilan du cours/Wrap-up

Essential Questions

Assessment & Reflection paper due (written and oral)

Week 16/April 26

Semaine de rattrapage/Catch-up Week