English 381 (22746)
FILM, MEDIA, CULTURE: “Cinema and Youth Culture”

Winter 2018
MW: 10 - 11:50, Mck 214
Dr. Sangita Gopal
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Office Hours: M and W, 8:30 to 9:30 at PLC 528 and by appointment

Course Description: This course will focus on the representation and function of children and youth in world cinema. Using landmark films from the U.S., Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia the course will try to understand how children and youth are depicted in cinemas from different national contexts, what cultural meanings and values they take on, paying special attention to how they are used by cinema to both reflect and reflect upon culture.

Our Learning Outcomes will be as follows:

1. **Learn to link content to contexts:** eg: how the representation of specific subjects in cinema (in this case children and youth) are conditioned by the social and cultural, and economic conditions of particular national contexts.
2. **Gain an understanding of content is shaped by the institutions of cinema:** eg: how a cinema’s focus on a specific subject (children and youth) can be linked to the industrial modes of production, distribution, and exhibition of film and media in these countries.
3. **Acquire the skills and tools to write about cinema academically:** This will involve mastering technical vocabulary specific to film analysis.
4. **Learn how to connect primary texts to critical and scholarly writing:** eg: our careful and diligent viewing and interpretation of films with readings so that the two mutually inform each other. Sometimes these readings will discuss specific films but more often, they will provide crucial historical and contextual information as well as critical frameworks to enrich our viewings.
5. **Engage in dialogues and discussion about the films and readings with our peers by participating in group activities.**
6. **Develop our abilities to compare and contrast films across different time periods and national contexts in order to understand shared and evolving language and aesthetics of cinema.**

Class Materials

I will screen films in class and post readings, notes and links on CANVAS on an ongoing basis. **Please check Canvas before each and every class meeting for updates.**

Readings will become available **a week before they are due** to be read. Readings for a week need to be completed in time for discussion that usually occurs after a screening has concluded. Some screening may spill over two class meetings – when this is the case, please have the reading completed by that second screening day.

Screening worksheets on which you will complete during screenings will become available a few days in advance of the screening and need to be **printed and brought to the screening.** Screening worksheets are
handed in to be graded at the end of the term in a file folder. They are for your reference as you write your essays and assignments so you need to hold on and refer to them. Assignments will be posted TWO WEEKS in advance. Please let me know if this is not the case.

Class Meetings & Procedures

1. The class meets 2 times a week and attendance is mandatory. There are unannounced quizzes that will be based on the viewings/readings for the day as well as other forms of assessment that require attendance. I will only allow work to be made-up in the case of documented absences or absences that have been pre-authorized by the instructor in advance.

2. Typically – though not always – we will screen a film on first day of the week and use the second day for discussion and assessment. Sometimes, it takes more than one class period to screen a film and we may go over to the next meeting.

3. Many of the films in the course are subtitled --- this means you have to pay special attention during screenings to both reading the subtitles and watching what is onscreen. This can prove challenging, so I strongly recommend that you review these films at home. They are all available for purchase at various online retailers but they may also be accessible free online. If you have difficulty procuring a film, please get in touch with me and I can guide you to some sources.

4. Please be respectful of your classmates and of the instructor and refrain from talking, texting and browsing in class. Studies have shown that if you are texting or browsing this can prove disruptive and distracting to the people sitting around you and it can negatively impact their learning and overall class experience. So, please do be sensitive to this issue.

5. I do not allow other screens to be open during screenings since the light from these screens (phone/computer/ipad) really distracts and disrupts the screening experience.

6. While open and engaged dialogue and discussion and a plurality of views is encouraged in this class, please keep your speech respectful and civil at all times towards individuals and groups.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism: You are responsible for understanding and adhering to the standards of academic honesty outlined in the student handbook. Document ALL sources consulted in preparing your work, including TV shows, magazines, your friends, parents, and, of course, anything found on the web. At a minimum, documented plagiarism will result in course failure.

Access For Students With Disabilities: If you have a disability, which you believe may affect your performance in this course, please contact me the first week of the term so we can make the necessary arrangements for your full access to the course and its activities.

Please Note: This is a college level course and so some of the films contain explicit materials of a violent or sexual nature. There is one that shows violence towards animals. If this is something you need to discuss, please see me.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on:

- Midterm exam: 25%
- Final Paper: 25%
- Quizzes/In Class writing: 20%
- Group Work: 20%
Will post details about these on Canvas

SCHEDULE
Subject to Change with Notice. Please check Blackboard at all times

Part 1: Children

Week One (1/8 and 1/10): Introduction and watch *Ladri di Biciclette* (“Bicycle Thieves,” De Sica, 1948),
Week Two (1/15 – no class on Monday, MLK day, and 1/17) Discussion and Classwork on *Ladri*.
Week Three (1/22, 1/24) Watch *Okja* (Bong Joon Ho, 2017), Discussion and Classwork
Week Four (1/29 and 1/31) Watch *Ma Vie En Rose* (Alain Berliner, 1997), Discussion and Classwork

Part 2: Rebels

Week Five (2/5 and 2/7): Watch *Les Quatre Cents Coups* (“400 Blows,” Francois Truffaut, 1959),
Discussion and Classwork; Midterms are Due in Class on February 7.
Week Six (2/12 and 2/14): Watch *My Own Private Idaho* (Gus Van Sant, 1991), Discussion and Classwork.

Part 3: Friendship

Week Seven (2/19 and 2/21): Watch *Take Care of My Cat* (Jae-Eun Jeong, 2001)
Discussion and Classwork
Week Eight (2/26 and 2/28): Watch *Moonlight* (Barry Jenkins, 2016), Discussion and Classwork

Part 4: Romance

Week Nine (3/5 and 3/7): Graded Group Presentations followed by screening of *A Girl Walks Alone at Night* (Lily Amanpour, 2014)
Week 10 (3/12): Discussion and wrap up
No class on 3/14 since Instructor is giving a research presentation at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference in Toronto

FINALS ARE DUE MARCH 19 by 5 pm under my office door, PLC 528