



## FILM STUDIES 1022 (570) Introduction to Film Studies Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026

### Course Information

**Calendar Description:** What is a blockbuster? What is a cult film? What is digital cinema? Discover the answers to these questions and others in a broad introduction to the study of cinema. Students will learn the basic vocabulary of film studies and gain an informed understanding of the different critical approaches to film analysis.

**Prerequisite(s):**

**Antirequisite(s):** Film Studies 1020E.

**Extra Information:** 5 hours including screening.

**Course Weight:** 1.00

**Breadth:** Category B **Subject Code:** FILM

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.



FILM STUDIES 1022 570

# Introduction to Film Studies

FALL/WINTER 2025-2026

<b>Mode of Instruction</b>	In-person
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Charles Burnetts
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:Cburnet6@uwo.ca">Cburnet6@uwo.ca</a>
<b>Office Hours</b>	By appointment on Zoom  Visit the course website ( <a href="https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login">https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login</a> ) or Western's Student Centre  ( <a href="https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login&amp;languageCd=ENG&amp;">https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login&amp;languageCd=ENG&amp;</a> ) for details.

## Course Description:

What is a blockbuster? What is a cult film? What is digital cinema? Discover the answers to these questions and others in a broad introduction to the study of cinema. Students will learn the basic vocabulary of film studies and gain an informed understanding of the different critical approaches to film analysis.

## Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students who successfully complete Film Studies 1022 will have gained an understanding of the basic elements of film form and film style (mise-en-scène, editing, cinematography, and sound).
- They will also achieve some familiarity with the history of the cinema, including major movements, technological developments, and key figures.
- Students will also have gained an understanding of and an ability to work with a variety of critical approaches, including formalist, feminist, genre-based, and auteurist.
- Working individually and collaboratively, by engaging in film analysis in the classroom and in their written assignments, students will sharpen their critical thinking and writing skills.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson & Jeff Smith, *Film Art: An Introduction*, 13<sup>th</sup> ed. (available either as a paperback (\$112.15) or a digital eBook (\$99.00), either of which may be found on the Western Bookstore site by directing your browser to this URL: [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2024&courses%5B0%5D=570 KC/FIL1022](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2024&courses%5B0%5D=570%20KC/FIL1022)).

Additional readings are available digitally via the Western library system; details and links will be found on the course website

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Mise-en-scène Analysis	Week 8	15%
Test 1 (on material covered from weeks 2-9, inclusive)	Week 10	10%
Test II (on material covered from weeks 11-17, inclusive)		15%
Sequence Analysis, Part A: Shot Breakdown (solo or group assignment, as you prefer)	Week 18	10%
Sequence Analysis, Part B: Interpretive Essay (solo assignment)	Week 20	10%
Participation mark		10%
Final Examination	April examination period	30%

***A detailed, week-by-week schedule of reading assignments and film screenings will be found on the course website.***

**SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES**

***LECTURES, SCREENINGS AND TUTORIALS***

All students will be expected to attend screenings and lectures and come to the weekly tutorials prepared to participate in discussions based on the week's assigned readings and screenings. It's a good idea to take notes immediately following all screenings, when details will be clearest in your memory. Come to classes and tutorials with questions or comments that have arisen from your

readings, the lecture and screening. Make notes during the lectures and tutorial discussions with a view to challenging or developing some of the points expressed.

As a courtesy to others, please arrive on time at all lectures, screenings and tutorials, and stay until the end. Also, please do not speak when the instructor, tutorial leader, and/or one of your fellow classmates is speaking, or during screenings. Your supposedly private conversations may be less private and more disruptive than you realize.

**Your tutorial participation mark is not an attendance mark;** it will, however, be weighted by your attendance. This mark will be determined by your tutorial leader on the basis of your preparedness and the quality and frequency of your participation in tutorial discussions throughout the year. Discussion questions will be posted online prior to each screening, and both your tutorial leader and your fellow students will expect you to have considered responses to these questions by the time your tutorial group meets.

### ***ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS, ESPECIALLY DURING SCREENINGS***

**Laptops/tablets** are wonderful tools, but they can at times cause problems in a course such as this one, in which we regularly screen films: the whole point of dimming the lights, after all, is to focus everyone's attention on the screen where the movie is being projected, not the many smaller screens scattered around the room. Thus, **if you wish to use a laptop during film screenings, please be considerate of your classmates and sit in one of the two back rows so that your screen will not be visible to several rows of people sitting behind you.** Finally, please note that gazing distractedly at your phone or laptop during class is an excellent way to turn your normally mild-mannered, patient professor into an exasperated one. **PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE: TURN YOUR PHONE OFF IN CLASS AND RESIST THE URGE TO CHECK YOUR FRIENDS' FACEBOOK UPDATES AND SUCH ON YOUR PHONES, LAPTOPS AND TABLETS.**

### ***VIEWING FILMS OUTSIDE OF CLASS***

You will certainly want to watch some of the films again after they have been screened in class. All are available on one of the streaming services to which the University subscribes; you will find links to each of the films on the course website.

### ***CONTACTING/MEETING WITH ME***

If you need to arrange an **appointment** (in-person or via Zoom), email is the most efficient way to do that. I will respond to **brief email messages/inquiries** as promptly as I can, but please be aware that—like you—I will be very busy at certain times of the year, especially during the final few weeks of each term, and I deal with large volumes of email. Normally, though, you should expect a reply within two business days. Messages requiring a lengthy reply will likely be met with an invitation to meet because email correspondence of that kind can be extremely time-consuming. I will not usually read course-related email messages during evenings and weekends, so be aware that messages sent late on a Friday will probably not be read until the following Monday.

### ***ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES, WRITING SUPPORT, AND LATE PENALTIES***

Detailed guidelines will be included with individual assignments as they are posted on the course website, but you would be wise to familiarize yourselves early on with the excellent **writing support** available to you via the College's writing centre, The Write Place (<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/the-write-place/>), which is located on the main floor of the Darryl J. King Student Life Centre (KC-113) and offers a range of helpful services.

**All course assignments, excluding tests and exams, are to be submitted online via the course website—no hard copies are required.** Barring any exceptional circumstances, I will respond to your work no later than three weeks after I have received it.

**Unless otherwise specified, all assignments (excluding tests and exams) are due at midnight on the due date.** In accordance with the policy of the Department of English, French, and Writing, the **penalty for late assignments** will be **one mark per day, Saturdays and Sundays included.** No assignments will be accepted after the tenth day, except on humanitarian grounds or medical grounds, which should be brought to the attention of the Office of the Academic Dean. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes (except on humanitarian or medical grounds) unless the student has received prior permission from me. Any exception to these regulations must be arranged in advance.

### ***ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SCHOLASTIC DISCIPLINE***

**Scholastic offences are taken seriously**, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholas\\_c\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholas_c_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Within this course, **the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted** for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

**All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.** All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

### ***ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION FOR STUDENT ABSENCE***

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), please follow the procedures below.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Office of the Academic Dean. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course. **If you require academic consideration with regard to Test I in Week 10 or Test II on Week 18, supporting documentation must be provided.**

If the Office of the Academic Dean recommends academic consideration, an assignment deadline may be extended or a make-up test arranged.

# KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

### 2025-2026

#### **1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

##### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

##### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/S\\_MC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/S_MC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

## Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## 2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:  
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College:  
<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:  
[https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King's University College:  
<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

## GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

## 3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

#### **4. Statement on Academic Offences**

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/OriginalityReports-TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

#### **5. Copyright of Course Material**

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

#### **6. Use of Recordings**

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

#### **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.