



## Course syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Department of Film and Literature

1FV20E Filmvetenskap, fortsättningskurs, 30 högskolepoäng

1FV20E Film Studies, Continuation Course, 30 credits

### **Main field of study**

Film Studies

### **Subject Group**

Film Studies

### **Level of classification**

First Level

### **Progression**

G1E

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2009-09-06

Revised 2022-03-08 by Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

### **Prerequisites**

Film Studies, 1–30 credits.

## Objectives

### **Module 1. Documentary film, 7.5 credits**

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- account for the history of documentary film and its forms of expression
- reflect independently in writing on theoretical problems associated with documentary film.

### **Module 2. Film Criticism: Theory and Practice, 7.5 credits**

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- account for contemporary tendencies in cultural journalism, from historical and societal perspectives
- analyse film reviews and other kinds of film journalism from the point of view of a comprehensive cultural journalism context
- write film reviews, columns and other culture pieces connected to film that are well written in terms of style as well as content

- edit film reviews, columns and other culture pieces connected to film.

### **Module 3. European Cinema, 7.5 credits**

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- account for some of the most influential films and filmmakers in contemporary French, German, Spanish, Eastern European and Scandinavian film
- account for the changes that European film culture has undergone in recent decades
- problematise “European film” as a concept, from different cultural theoretical perspectives
- analyse a film from a perspective that problematises “the European way” as a cultural identity.

### **Module 4. World Cinema, 7.5 credits**

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- account for film-theoretical perspectives on film cultures outside the USA and Europe
- design a small research project on the subject of world cinema, and select appropriate sources for this project
- formulate criticism of their own and others' texts, in speech and in writing.

### **Elective course: Independent project, 7.5 credits**

After completing the module, the student should be able to

- apply a critical and analytical approach in a written academic project within the field of film studies.

## **Content**

### **Module 1. Documentary Film (7.5 credits)**

This module explores the history of the documentary film and its forms of expression. Theoretical problems associated with documentary films are discussed – for instance the relationship between documentary films and reality, and the ethical questions that documentaries raise.

### **Module 2. Film Criticism: Theory and Practice (7.5 credits)**

This module looks at film reviews and other kinds of film journalism from different theoretical and practical perspectives. Theory seminars, in which newspaper and magazine articles are discussed from the point of view of contemporary journalistic culture, alternate with practical exercises in article writing. Different genres, such as the review and the column genre, are studied and located in a wider cultural journalism context. In the practical parts, students discuss style, structure and text editing, as well as how to adapt their writing according to audience.

### **Module 3. European Cinema (7.5 credits)**

This module takes a holistic approach to European cinema, based on innovative approaches in contemporary research on European film identity. The traditional idea of European film as national "auteur film" is discussed and problematised, using transcultural perspectives focusing on international and regional event and festival cultures, “world cinema”, and norm-breaking film creation. Focus lies on contemporary cinema, and the changes that have taken place in European film over the last 20 years. The periods usually considered as the glory days of European cinema – the 1920s and the 1960s – serve as a background for a discussion of European film identity in flux.

### **Module 4. World Cinema (7.5 credits)**

This module deals primarily with film outside the USA and Europe, for example, film

in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Transnational approaches to film culture in a broad sense are introduced, and in this context, trends in European and American film may also be addressed. The meaning of the term "world cinema" is discussed, and the students specialise in a topic of their own choice, within the scope of the module.

### **Elective Module. Independent project (7.5 credits)**

Students who wish to obtain a higher education diploma in Film Studies may replace one of the four regular modules with an independent project (degree project) in the form of a thesis in the field of Film Studies. The purpose of the module is to give the student the opportunity to practice adopting a critical and analytical approach in a written academic work. The student writes a short, independent thesis, and acts as a peer-reviewer of another student's project. Note that students must themselves sign up for the elective module in advance – see "other" below.

### **Type of Instruction**

Teaching is delivered in the form of lectures, group discussions, practical exercises, seminars and film screenings. The course may also be offered as a distance course, using an online learning platform.

### **Examination**

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) or Pass with Distinction (VG).

Module 1 is examined through written assignments, presentations and seminar discussions.

Module 2 is examined through seminar exercises, text editing, and article writing.

Module 3 is examined through written assignments as well as through seminar assignments in the form of presentations and discussions.

Module 4 is examined through seminar assignments in the form of presentations and discussions, as well as through a written group project.

The elective module, "independent project", is examined through a complete thesis, peer-review of another student's project, and seminar discussions.

In order to receive the grade of Pass, the student must achieve the objectives. Grading criteria for the grade of Pass with Distinction will be specified in writing when the course starts. In order to receive the grade of Pass with Distinction for the entire course, the student must have received this grade for at least 22.5 of the 30 credits.

Repeat examination is offered in accordance with Local regulations for courses and examination at the first and second-cycle level at Linnaeus University. If the university has decided that a student is entitled to special pedagogical support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to give a customised exam or to have the student conduct the exam in an alternative way.

### **Course Evaluation**

During or shortly after the course, a course evaluation is conducted. Results and analysis of the course evaluation are promptly communicated to the students who have taken the course. Students who are taking the course when it is offered the next time are informed of the results at the start of the course. The evaluation is anonymous.

### **Credit Overlap**

The course cannot be included in a degree along with the following course/courses of which the content fully, or partly, corresponds to the content of this course: 1FV201 Documentary film 7,5 credits; 1FV206 European Cinema 7,5 credits; 1FV207 World Cinema 7,5 credits; and 1FV208 Film Criticism: Theory and Practice 7,5 credits.

### Other

As regards the elective thesis course, the students must themselves contact the subject coordinator to sign up for this. Full-time students are required to do this before the course starts. For part-time students studying at a distance, the elective module will take place in the second semester, regardless of which module the student wishes to change, and the student should notify the subject coordinator when the course starts.

### Required Reading and Additional Study Material

**Module 1. Documentary Film** Bruzzi, Stella. 2006 (2nd edition or later). *New Documentary: A Critical Introduction*. London: Routledge. 275 pages.

Nichols, Bill. 2010 (2nd edition or later). *Introduction to Documentary*. Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press. 341 pages.

Winston, Brian (ed.), *The Documentary Film Book*. London: Palgrave MacMillan/BFI. 400 pages. Latest edition.

Material provided by the department on the learning platform: ca 50 pages.

### Module 2. Film criticism: Theory & Practice

Corrigan, Timothy. 2012. *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*. 8th edition. London: Pearson. 216 pages. ISBN 9780321881816

Hägg, Göran. *Praktisk retorik*. Stockholm: Wahlström & Widstrand, 253 pages, ISBN 9789146222385

Nordenson, Magdalena. (2008) *Opinionsjournalistik: att skriva ledare, kolumner och recensioner*. Lund: Studentlitteratur, p 11–245, ISBN 9789144009049

Språkrådets *Svenska skrivregler*. Stockholm: Liber, 4th edition, 2017, 308 pages, ISBN 9789147111497

Material provided by the department on the learning platform: ca 50 pages.

### Module 3. European Cinema

Elsaesser, Thomas. *European Cinema: Face to Face with Hollywood*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press cop. 563 pages (in selection, 150 p). the latest edition.

Fowler, Catherine. *The European Cinema Reader*. London: Routledge (in selection, ca 100 pages) the latest edition.

Harrod, Mary, Timoshkina, Alissa, Liz, Mariana. (eds). *The Europeanness of European Cinema: Identity, Meaning, Globalization*. In B Tauris. 272 pages. The latest edition. (available as an e-book)

Liz, Mariana. *Euro-visions: Europe in contemporary cinema*. Bloomsbury. New York. 183 pages. The latest edition.

Loist, Skadi. (ed). *Teaching European Cinema*. Dossier. Alphaville. 2017. 59 pages. Available online.

Articles provided by the department on the learning platform, ca 50 pages.

#### **Module 4. World Cinema**

Durovicová, Natasa and Kathleen E. Newman (eds). *World Cinemas, Transnational Perspectives*. 384 pages. The latest edition.

Nagib, Lucia, Chris Perriam och Rajinder Dudrah (eds). *Theorizing World Cinema*. 288 pages. The latest edition.

Material provided by the department on the learning platform: ca 150 pages.

In connection with the group assignment, each group of students shall present a literature list (at least 700 pages) relevant to their chosen subject area that the teacher must approve. Guidance regarding suitable reference literature will be given at the beginning of the course.

#### **Elective Module. Independent project**

*Att skriva uppsats i filmvetenskap*. Compendium. 28 pages.

*Svenska skrivregler*. (The third or a later edition). Stockholm: Liber. 263 pages.

Subject specific literature list compiled by the students themselves (at least 700 pages)