

COURSE OUTLINE

FILM-206

French Film

3 Semester Hours

Fine Arts and Humanities Core Course

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course is an interdisciplinary study of contemporary French society and culture through the medium of film. The aim of the course is to trace the history of film in France, and show the interconnection between artistic expression and the historical and cultural realities of France from the dawn of cinema in the early 1900s to the present, with special emphasis on the French New Wave movement with reference to some major French directors (Truffaut, Renoir, Godard) and their influential works. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as FREN-206.

Statement on General Education and Liberal Learning

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Develop a general knowledge of French history and culture from 1900 to the present.
2. Identify running themes in French movies.
3. Discuss the “auteur theory” of cinema, especially as it relates to French directors.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the connection between history, culture, and cinema.
5. Distinguish different cinematic styles and genres based on the cultural models created through history from 1900 to the present.
6. Discuss the styles of the most important and influential directors in French cinema (such as Truffaut, Renoir, Godard, etc.)
7. Evaluate films and literary works from this area and place them in their cultural setting.
8. Discuss cultural mores, family life, religion, art, literature as depicted in French film.

Major Topics

- I. Pioneers of Film
 - a. Lumière Brothers
 - b. Georges Méliès
- II. French Impressionist Cinema
 - a. Man Ray
- III. Poetic Realism
 - a. Jean Renior
- IV. Le Nouvel Vague
 - a. Albert Lamorisse
 - b. Robert Bresson
 - c. Alain Resnais
 - d. Jacques Demy
 - e. Jean-Luc Godard
 - f. François Truffaut
- V. French Cinéma Vérité
 - a. Gillo Pontecorvo
 - b. Mathieu Kassovitz
- VI. Present Day French Cinema
 - a. Claude Berri
 - b. Jean-Pierre Jeunet
 - c. Patrice Leconte
 - d. François Dupeyron

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but may include a researched essay, oral presentation, and regular exams.

Other Course Information

This course is an Arts and Sciences elective and a Fine Arts and Humanities Core Course.