FL-H 399 Foreign Language Seminar “Francophone Cinema”

Instructor - Rosemarie Doucette  
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Office Hours: MW 1-3pm, Th 2-3  
Class meets T 6-8:30 pm in Room 332  
rosdoucette@scsu.edu

I  COURSE OUTLINE

1 – 23  Introduction to film, Au revoir les enfants  
1 – 30  Camille Claudel  
2 – 6  Indochine  
2 – 13  La Veuve de St. Pierre  
2 – 20  Mon Oncle Antoine  
2 – 27  Krik Krak  
2 – 6  La Rue cases-nègres  
3 – 13  Spring Break!  
3 – 20  The Battle of Algiers  
3 – 27  Caché  
4 – 3  Wend Kunni  
4 – 10  Tableau Ferraille  
4 – 17  Karmen Gei  
4 – 24  Les Hyenas  
5 – 1  Silences of the Palace  
5 – 8  Final class – presentation of final paper

II. REFERENCES

The following titles are suggested for further reading and research on France and the Francophone world. Some are available from the Whittaker Library, others through the Interlibrary Loan system. Do not limit yourself to this selection, but examine the library holdings for additional material. Some instructors have resource materials for your use as well as the language laboratory. The Internet is also a valuable resource tool.

The instructor has a personal collection of books on francophone cinema available in her office for student use. The Internet has many articles dealing with cinema in the various French-speaking countries. Caution! Avoid unprofessional reviewers, bloggers, etc. If you choose an article to support your work, it must be a valid academic source. Ask a librarian if you are not sure.

III. SPECIAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Readings will be assigned each week from materials distributed in class as well as selected electronic material from the Internet. Students are responsible for completing readings before the next class. Students must write a response paper to each film viewed in class. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, about 1 - 1½ pages. Each paper should deal with an aspect of the film that was compelling, for example, the cinematography. How does the camera act as an author of a visual text? Does the camera show scenes or actions that are not visible to other characters? For what purpose? Does the director use special shots to achieve a certain mood? How are thoughts expressed in film? Other approaches are to examine the adaptation from print to film, the presence/absence of different classes, genders, professions, the confrontation or avoidance of social problems, the problems surrounding language differences, cultural taboos, availability to public, etc. Could the film have been produced in an American setting with similar results? Is the plot and/or theme only relative to the culture in which the film was produced, or could a parallel be drawn with American events (especially African American or feminine rather than masculine focus)? Students may discuss their topics (or problems focusing on one for the paper) with the instructor in person, by phone, or e-mail.

Students will be trained to use Web Board, an electronic forum for discussion. Each week a student will be responsible for posting a few questions from the previous film and one question form the reading to be discussed by all online. Each student must respond to at least one question before the next class.

A final paper dealing with a topic relative to the course will be due on the day of the final, Tuesday, May 8. The paper must be 3-4 pages typed, double-spaced, and properly footnoted (may be mailed electronically). It must relate to a film viewed outside of class (with instructor’s approval). Students are encouraged to select an extract from the film and bring it to class ready to view before giving a short resume of their final papers. Films are available from the instructor, from Blockbusters, etc., or from local libraries. Attendance is mandatory because some films may be borrowed or rented and NOT available after the class. Students’ grades depend on weekly participation in class discussions.

IV. METHOD OF EVALUATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation in class discussion</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in Web Board discussions</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response papers</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
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