

Code: FLMD-220E.01

Course title: Introduction to Film Theory

Course convenors: Zoltán Dragon

Class time and place: Monday 12:30-14:00 -137

Course type: Lecture

Course content: The course is a comprehensive overview of the main aspects of the vast field of film theory and criticism. The lecture is intended to be a theoretical guide into the field of film studies and provides students with key concepts of film and, in tandem, their theoretical background(s). Topics include the following: film and reality, the language(s) of film, image and sound, film-theater-literature, film genres, antecedents of film theory and the beginnings of film, silent movies, montage theory, formalism and film, structuralism and film, avant-garde in film, the sound in movies, realism, the problem and the cult of auteur, the Americanization of film, the Americanization of auteur theory, film language, psychoanalysis and film, filmic/textual analysis, cultural studies and film, film semiotics, postcolonial studies and film, gender studies, queer theory and film, multiculturalism, race and film, post(?)modernism and film, mass-media, mass-culture and the issue of post-cinema.

1. Encounters of the First Kind: Once Upon a Time in Film
2. Do You Speak Film?: Film Language and Adaptation
3. Dream On: Psychoanalysis and Cinema
4. Cowboys, Deadly Women and Co.: Genres of the Cinema
5. Cinema and Its Discontents: Auteur, Studio, Star
6. Gender and Cinema: All Sides of the Camera
7. Third Cinema Encounters
8. Ultimately Onscreen: The Futures of the Cinema in the Age of New Media
9. Post-Cinema in the Age of the Anthropocene

Final schedule is subject to change.

Requirements: The course ends with a written exam.

Learning outcomes: Students become literate in several kinds of film theory. They will acquire an overview of the main aspects of the leading theories of the cinema and will be able to formulate critical insight throughout history of movies. Students will be able to express their critical attitude and analyses in a well-founded and theoretically sound manner on the wide range of moving image phenomena the course offers to tackle.

Indicative Reading: Réka M. Cristian & Zoltán Dragon: *Encounters of the Filmic Kind: Guidebook to Film Theories* (Szeged: JATE Press, 2007)
