

**Code:** BMI-FLMD-232E.24

---

**Course title:** Thriller Auteurs

---

**Course convenors:** Bence Kránicz

---

**Class time and place:** Friday 10.45-12.15, -135.

---

**Course type:** Seminar

---

**Course content:** This seminar will introduce students to the aesthetics of genre cinema, the characteristics of the thriller genre, and configurations of authorial presence in cinema, through group analyses of select films by directors canonised as 'thriller auteurs'.

In class, every topic is presented by two students, followed by group discussions of the required films. Every class starts with a quick test that checks if the participants have actually watched the films required for that week's seminar. Three missed classes/tests are permitted. Further requirements to get a grade on this class is writing a final exam during last week's class.

1. Introduction in theory: genres and authorship, frameworks of the thriller
2. Alfred Hitchcock 1. (*The 39 Steps*, *Sabotage*)
3. Alfred Hitchcock 2. (*Rear Window*, *Vertigo*)
4. Otto Preminger (*Whirlpool*, *Bunny Lake is Missing*)
5. John Frankenheimer (*The Manchurian Candidate*, *Seconds*)
6. Claude Chabrol (*La femme infidèle*, *Le boucher*)
7. Dario Argento (*L'uccello dalle piume di cristallo*, *Profondo rosso*)
8. Alan J. Pakula (*The Parallax View*, *All the President's Men*)
9. Brian De Palma (*Sisters*, *Body Double*)
10. Michael Haneke (*Funny Games*, *Caché*)
11. David Fincher (*Se7en*, *Zodiac*)
12. Park Chan-wook (*Oldboy*, *Sympathy for Lady Vengeance*)

- 
- Requirements:**
- In-class presentation
  - Written exam at the end of the semester
  - Three missed classes/tests permitted

---

**Learning outcomes:** See course content. Method: case studies in filmic authorship and genre theory.

---

**Required films and reading: Required films:**

The 39 Steps, 1935  
Sabotage, 1936  
Rear Window, 1954  
Vertigo, 1958  
Whirlpool, 1950  
Bunny Lake is Missing, 1965  
The Manchurian Candidate, 1962  
Seconds, 1966  
La femme infidèle, 1969  
Le boucher, 1970  
L'uccello dalle piume di cristallo, 1970  
Profondo rosso, 1975  
The Parallax View, 1974  
All the President's Men, 1976  
Sisters, 1972  
Body Double, 1984  
Funny Games, 1997  
Caché, 2005

---

Se7en, 1995  
Zodiac, 2007  
Oldboy, 2003  
Sympathy for Lady Vengeance, 2005

**Indicative reading**

Chabrol, Claude: Evolution of the Thriller. In: Barry Keith Grant and Malisa Kurtz (eds.): *Notions of Genre*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016. 232–241.  
Modleski, Tania: *The Women Who Knew Too Much. Hitchcock and Feminist Theory*. New York – London: Routledge, 2016. 69–102.  
Neale, Steve: Questions of Genre. In: Barry Keith Grant (ed.): *Film Genre Reader IV*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012. 178–202.  
Rubin, Martin: *Thrillers*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1999. 3–180.  
Wood, Robin: Ideology, Genre, Auteur. In: Barry Keith Grant (ed.): *Film Genre Reader IV*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012. 78–92.

Presenters are required to find further academic literature corresponding to their selected topic.

---