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**Course title: Concise History of Hungarian Cinema till 1989**

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**Course convener:** Györgyi Vajdovich

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**Class time and place:** Monday 14:00-15.30, Múzeum krt. 6-8, lower level, room -137

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**Course type:** Lecture

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**Course content:** The course presents the history of Hungarian cinema providing a historical and cultural overview of certain trends and periods. Lectures will focus on different questions like European and Hungarian identity, the coexistence of author cinema and popular genre films, the influence of literature and other arts on films, and the importance of documentary and animated films in Hungarian cinema. The course will also present certain films or artists who became influential in European or world cinema.

**08. 02.** Introduction

**15. 02.** István Szabó: Hungarian and European identity

obligatory films: **Father, Mephisto**

recommended film: Lovefilm, Sunshine

**22. 02.** The representation of the young generation in the films of the Hungarian New Wave

obligatory films: **Current, The Thrown up Stone**

recommended films: Cantata, Age of Daydreaming

**29. 02.** Formal innovations in the Hungarian New Wave, the role of short films

obligatory films: **Round up, Concert, Elegy**

recommended films: The Red and the White

**07. 03.** The duality of author films and popular films in Hungarian cinema

obligatory films: **The Corporal and the Others**

recommended films: Matt, the Gooseboy (feature film, 1949)

**14. 03.** Holiday

**21. 03.** The representation of history in Hungarian films 1.

obligatory films: **Somewhere in Europe, Cold days**

recommended film: The Corporal and the Others

**28. 03.** Spring break

**04. 04.** The representation of history in Hungarian films 2.

obligatory films: **The Witness, Time Stands Still**

recommended films: The Unburied Man

**11. 04.** Mid-term test; The relationship of Hungarian literature and cinema

obligatory films: **Merry-Go-Round, Love**

recommended films: Another Way

**18. 04.** Experimentation and lyrical subjectivism

obligatory films: **My 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

recommended films: Sindbad

**25. 04.** The Hungarian school of cinematographers

obligatory films: **Close Encounters of the Third Kind**

recommended films: Easy Rider, The Legend of 1900

**02. 05.** Hungarian immigrants in European and American film industries

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obligatory films: **Casablanca**  
recommended films: The Private Life of Henry VIII

**09. 05.** Trends and important figures of Hungarian animation film 1.  
obligatory films: **Matt, the Gooseboy** (animation, 1979), **The Fly, Maestro**  
recommended films: Cat City

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**Requirements:** Students must watch the obligatory films for each lesson, and they have to write a short test of a few questions about that given film during the class (they cannot miss more than three occasions). Students will write a mid-term test and the semester closes a written examination.

**List of obligatory films to be seen:**

Michael Curtiz: Casablanca, 1942  
Géza Radványi: Somewhere in Europe (Valahol Európában), 1947  
Zoltán Fábri: Merry-Go-Round (Körhinta), 1956  
István Szabó: Concert (Koncert), 1961  
István Gaál: Current (Sodrásban), 1963  
Zoltán Huszárik: Elegy (Elégia) 1965  
Miklós Jancsó: Round up (Szegénylegények), 1965  
Márton Keleti: The Corporal and the Others (A tizedes meg a többiek), 1965  
István Szabó: Father (Apa), 1966  
András Kovács: Cold Days (Hideg napok), 1966  
Sándor Sára: The Thrown up Stone (Feldobott kő), 1968  
Péter Bacsó: The Witness (A tanú), 1969  
Károly Makk: Love (Szerelem), 1971  
Steven Spielberg: Close Encounters of the Third Kind, 1977  
Péter Gothár: Time Stands Still (Megáll az idő), 1981  
István Szabó: Mephisto, 1981  
Ildikó Enyedi: My 20th Century (Az én XX. századom), 1988

Animation films:

Attila Dargay: Matt, the Gooseboy (Lúdas Matyi), 1979  
Ferenc Rofusz: The Fly (A légy) 1980  
Geza M. Toth: Maestro, 2005.

**List of recommended films:**

Alexander Korda: The Private Life of Henry VIII, 1933  
László Ranódy - Kálmán Nádasdy: Matt, the Gooseboy (Lúdas Matyi) – feature film, 1949  
Miklós Jancsó: Cantata (Oldás és kötés), 1963  
István Szabó: The Age of Daydreaming (Álmodozások kora), 1965  
Dennis Hopper: Easy Rider, 1965  
Miklós Jancsó: The Red and the White (Csillagosok, katonák), 1967  
István Szabó: Lovefilm (Szerelmesfilm), 1970  
Zoltán Huszárik: Sindbad (Szindbád), 1970  
Károly Makk: Another Way (Egymásra nézve), 1982  
Giuseppe Tornatore: The legend of 1900 (La leggenda del pianista sull'oceano), 1998  
István Szabó: Sunshine (A napfény íze), 1999  
Márta Mészáros: The Unburied Man (A temetetlen halott), 2005

Animation films:

Béla Ternovszky: Cat City (Macskafogó), 1986

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**Learning outcomes and methods:** The course gives an introduction to the history of Hungarian cinema emphasizing its national features but contextualizing its different periods and trends in European and world cinema. The course will initiate students to such questions of film studies as the concept of national cinema, art cinema vs. genre cinema, cultural memory, and to formal questions arising from the discussion of

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short films, experimental cinema and animation films.

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**Indicative Reading:** Bryan Burns: *World Cinema: Hungary*. Trowbridge: Flicks Books, 1996.  
John Cunningham: *Hungarian Cinema: From Coffee House to Multiplex*. Wallflower Press, 2004.  
Jean-Pierre Jeancolas: *L'oeil hongrois. Quatre décennies de cinéma a Budapest 1963-2000*. Budapest, Magyar Filmunió, 2001.

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