

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS
PRAGUE SUMMER SEMINARS 2012**

SURVEY OF CENTRAL EUROPEAN FILM

INSTRUCTOR: Harmon Greenblatt

Description:

This course will focus on the cinematic traditions of Central Europe. Through specific films, students will learn about the directors and cinematic trends of Czech, Polish, and Hungarian film. Students will learn about the technical, aesthetic, narrative, and commercial development of the cinematic art form in this geographic area. Students will study the influences at work on Central European cinema over the course of the last 100+ years, as well as the specific distinctions between Central European film and other traditions, such as the Hollywood film. No prior knowledge or study of film is necessary to take this class.

Students who wish to obtain Graduate credit for the class will have to write an additional essay about a film relevant to class and make a presentation. They should discuss this with the instructor prior to the start of the program.

The goals of the class are to:

1. Discuss and understand basic film techniques
2. Familiarize the student with the main movements, periods, and directors of Central European film.
3. Understand, through class discussion, the social, political, and cultural background of the times that are reflected in the films that are screened.

Required Reading:

Hames, Peter, *The Cinema of Central Europe*

Recommended Reading:

Paper Topic-

The life and times of a Central European film director not covered in class.

Grading:

Class Participation – 10 %

Quizzes (2) – 20%

Midterm – 20%

Paper – 25%

Final Exam – 25%

FORM OF REPORT AND PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

All work must be submitted electronically via email attachment, either in Microsoft Word or Excel format, or as PDF's, as well as in printed form.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

This is a graduate-level class, and as a budding professional you are encouraged to participate in all class discussions and activities. Attendance records will be maintained. Absences are strongly discouraged and unexcused absences unacceptable. After the first occurrence, unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade. You must communicate with the instructor prior to class if an absence is anticipated and absolutely unavoidable. Reports, presentations, papers and projects must be turned in on time unless an exception is obtained before the due date. In the event you miss a class you are responsible for learning the material that was missed. Classes held in the classroom are generally videotaped and available for viewing.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information.

The University requires final class grades to be in letter grade form. Where you may receive numeric grads on projects or tests, your aggregate grade will be converted to 90-100 = A, 80-89 = B, 70-79 = C, 60-69 = D, F: Below 60 = Failing

COURSE SYLLABUS (Subject to adjustment)

NOTE: In addition to the listed reading assignments, additional reading may be assigned from time to time.

CLASS SCHEDULE

July 7, Class 1: Basic Film Technique & Intro. To Central European Film

Reading: Hames, Preface and Introduction p. xiii-13

Film: Waszynski, *The Dybbuk* (1937)

July 8, Class 2: Polish Film

Reading: Hames, p. 25-33

The Dybbuk cont.

July 11, Class 3: Polish Film continued

Reading: Hames, p. 65-75

Film: Wajda, *Ashes and Diamonds* (1958)

July 12, Class 4: Polish Film continued

Reading: Hames, p. 181-190

Film: Wajda, *Man of Marble* (1977)
Quiz 1

July 13, Class 5: Polish Film concluded
Film: *Man of Marble*, continued

July 14, Class 6: Czech Film
Reading: Hames, p. 45-52
Film: Radok, *Distant Journey*

July 18, Class 7: Czech Film continued
Reading: Hames, p. 97-105
Film: Kadar, *A Shop On the High Street* (1965)
Midterm

July 19, Class 8: Czech Film continued
Film: *A Shop on the High Street Continued*

July 20, Class 9: Czech Film concluded
Reading: Hames, p. 117-127
Film: Menzel, *Closely Watched Trains* (1966)
Paper Due

July 25, Class 10: Hungarian Film
Reading: Hames, 35-43
Film: Szots, *People of the Mountains* (1940)

July 26, Class 11: Hungarian Film continued
Reading: Hames, p. 173-182
Film: Makk, *Love* (1971)
Quiz 2

July 27, Class 12: Hungarian Film continued
Reading: Hames, p. 255-263
Film: Fekete: *Bolshe Vita* (1996)

July 28, Class 13: *Bolshe Vita* (continued)

August 1, Class 14: Bonus Film: Menzel - *I Served The King of England* (2008)

August 2, Class 15: *I Served The King of England* (continued)
Review For Final
Graduate presentations

August 3, Class 16: Final