



## **SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES**

### **SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CURRICULUM**

**January 2018**

**This proposal was prepared by the School of Humanities, vetted by the Teaching, Learning and Pedagogy Division (TLPD) and reviewed by the School's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, which consists of the following members:**

***Assoc Prof Daniel Keith Jernigan (Chairman)***

***Asst Prof Ong Soon Keong (Chinese)***

***Assoc Prof Chan Hiu Dan Alice  
(Linguistics and Multilingual Studies)***

***Asst Prof Graham Matthews (English)***

***Asst Prof Park Hyung Wook (History)***

***Asst Prof Christopher Suhler (Philosophy)***

***Asst Prof Koo-Cheah Swit Ling Diane  
(Language and Communication Centre)***

***Ms Ryoo Hye Jin, Agnes  
(Centre for Modern Languages)***

## COLLEGE MODULE IN MiCCA

**Staff Name** : Michelle Chiang  
**College** : CoHASS  
**School** : School of Humanities  
**Contact Person** : Michelle Chiang

### New Proposal Form

**Create Date** : 14 May 2018

**Reference No.** :

**Programme Name** : English

#### **Rationale**

[This is an updated course content and format to reflect the changing trend of how a film theory course is conducted.] The course will help you acquire the skills necessary to understand how film theories are constructed. This knowledge and understanding of writings about cinema will equip you with the skills to analyse and interpret a wide range of films. Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to apply these ideas to key questions asked throughout the history of film theory, as well as generate new ways of thinking about films, both old and new.

#### **Action Items**

	Action Item	Tick (☑) where applicable	Remarks, if any
A	Introduction of New Course	<input type="checkbox"/>	
B	Withdrawal of Existing Course(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C	Change in Course Title	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D	Change in Course AU, and Programme AU Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E	Change in Learning Objective(s) / Content	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
F	Change in Pre-requisite(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
G	Change in Assessment Components	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
H	Others (please specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Expected Implementation of Proposal:**

Semester 1, AY2018-19

**Upload Attachments:**

**Declaration:**  I declare that the proposal has been endorsed by Dean or relevant delegate

## 1. TEMPLATE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSAL

### (A) Introduction of New Course(s)

The following new courses are proposed:

Course Type	Proposed Course Code and Title	Pre-requisite	Proposed Date of Offer	Proposed No. of Hours Per Week				Proposed AU
				Lecture	Tutorial	Seminar	Total	
Major-PE, GER-UE	HL3001 Film Theory	HL1001 Introduction to the Study of Literature	Semester 1, AY2018-19			3	3	3

#### Justifications:

This course will be offered under Category C (Film & Theatre).

The course will help you acquire the skills necessary to understand how film theories are constructed. This knowledge and understanding of writings about cinema will equip you with the skills to analyse and interpret a wide range of films. Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to apply these ideas to key questions asked throughout the history of film theory, as well as generate new ways of thinking about films, both old and new.

Further details on the proposed new courses (e.g. learning outcome, content, course outline, assessment components, etc) are provided in **Annex A** to paper.

<b>Academic Year</b>	2019-2020	<b>Semester</b>	1
<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Michelle Chiang		
<b>Course Code</b>	HL3001		
<b>Course Title</b>	Film Theory		
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	HL1001 Introduction to the Study of Literature		
<b>No of AUs</b>	3		
<b>Contact Hours</b>	39 (weekly seminars of 3 hours)		
<b>Proposal Date</b>	19 January 2018		

### Course Aims

The course will help you acquire the skills necessary to understand how film theories are constructed. This knowledge and understanding of writings about cinema will equip you with the skills to analyse and interpret a wide range of films. Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to apply these ideas to key questions asked throughout the history of film theory, as well as generate new ways of thinking about films, both old and new.

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and interpret stylistic elements of films.
2. Acquire knowledge of key writings about cinema.
3. Evaluate writings about cinema critically and employ those ideas creatively in your analyses of films.
4. Develop an appreciation for the birth and development of film theory.

### Course Content

This course will introduce to you the history and key debates of film theory. You will be exposed to various ways of thinking and writing about films. The course is divided into four thematic units: Ontology (What is film?), Epistemology (How do films create meaning?), Aesthetics (What makes a film 'powerful,' 'poignant,' or 'sublime?'), and Ideology (How does a film relate to society and politics?).

### Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)

Component	Course LO Tested	Related Programme LO or Graduate Attributes (See English Programme's LOs)	Weighting	Team/Individual	Assessment Rubrics (See English Programme's assessment rubrics)

1. Essay	3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15	40%	Individual	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13
2. Presentation	3, 4	4, 5, 6, 9, 12	20%	Group	1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13
3. Participation	1, 3	4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13	20%	Group	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14
4. Weekly Response	2, 3	2, 3	20%	Individual	1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11
Total			100%		

**Essay (40%):**

You will engage critically with at least 1 long essay in this course and a film of your choice. Your essay must begin with a thesis statement, and all points must be structured coherently with clear topic sentences. Secondary resources are not required. (1500-2000 words)

**Presentation (20%):**

Working in a group, you will identify and analyze three key ideas in the essays of the week. At the end of the presentation, you will take questions from your classmates.

**Participation (20%)**

Participation is important in this class, and you will be evaluated during in-class discussions and peer feedback during Q&A. This component also includes attendance.

**Weekly Response (20%)**

Come to class each week with a half-page response. Font 12, Times New Roman, Single-spaced. 30 minutes before end of class, you will complete and submit the hand-written second half. Both parts must be in dialogue with each other. Secondary resources are not required.

**Formative feedback**

Feedback from peers generated during in-class discussions will be helpful to check your understanding of the film essays. Written feedback will also be given when I return your response folders to you and when you receive your final grade.

**Learning and Teaching approach**

Approach	How does this approach support students in achieving the learning outcomes?
Lecture	You will be introduced to the writers of the week in a 1- 1.5 hour lecture. I usually begin with several points that I want to make about the author of the text we are working on, the period the author is writing in – and the major theoretical issues the author is engaged in.

Discussion	The next hour is devoted to close-reading and discussion. Each of you will bring 1 question and share it with the rest of the class. We will make a list of some of these questions on the board, then try to answer them together. These questions could help generate ideas for your final essay.
Presentation	Each week, a group of you will introduce three key ideas in a prescribed film essay to the class. Presentations are approximately 30 minutes. If you are not presenting that day, you are expected to contribute to class discussion at the end of each presentation. You can do so by asking and responding to questions, as well as giving constructive feedback to one another. Such discussions are also opportunities to formulate and test out potential ideas for the final essay.
Response Paper	The response papers will allow you and me to check your progress, specifically your understanding of the prescribed readings.

### Reading and References

This is a provisional list.

#### Primary Text:

1. Brady, Leo and Marshall Cohen, eds. *Film Theory and Criticism: Introductory Readings*. Eighth Edition. Oxford UP, 2016.

[Additional readings will be distributed in class.]

### Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

#### (1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and response papers. You will attend all seminar classes punctually. If you must miss a seminar session, you are responsible for following up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements. Since Engagement is one of the assessment components, you are expected to participate actively in all seminar discussions and activities.

#### (2) Absenteeism

Attendance will be taken each week. Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your course grade significantly. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.

If you must miss a seminar, you must inform me (the course instructor) via email prior to the start of the class.

## Academic Integrity

Good academic work depends on honesty and ethical behaviour. The quality of your work relies on adhering to the principles of academic integrity and to the NTU Honour Code, a set of values shared by the whole university community. Truth, Trust and Justice are at the core of NTU's shared values.

You must recognise your responsibilities in understanding and applying the principles of academic integrity in all the work you do at NTU. Not knowing what is involved in maintaining academic integrity does not excuse academic dishonesty. One needs to actively equip oneself with strategies to avoid all forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, academic fraud, collusion and cheating. If you are uncertain of the definitions of any of these terms, you should go to the [academic integrity website](#) for more information. You could also consult me if you need any clarification about the requirements of academic integrity in the course.

## Course Instructors

Instructor	Office Location	Phone	Email
Michelle Chiang	SoH 03-69	67906714	<a href="mailto:michellechiang@ntu.edu.sg">michellechiang@ntu.edu.sg</a>

## Planned Weekly Schedule

Week	Topic	Course LO	Readings/ Activities
1	<b>Introduction:</b> What is Film Theory?	2, 4	
2	<b>Ontology:</b> What is Film?	1, 2	Vsevolod Pudovkin, "On Editing" from <i>Film Technique</i>  Sergei Eisenstein, "Beyond the Shot" and "The Dramaturgy of Film Form"  Screening: <i>Battleship Potemkin</i> (1925)
3	<b>Ontology:</b> Image and Sound	2, 4	André Bazin, "The Ontology of the Photographic Image," "The Myth of Total Cinema," and "De Sica: Metteur-en-scène"  Sergei Eisenstein, Vsevolod Pudovkin, and Grigori

			Alexandrov, "Statement on Sound"
4	<b>Ontology:</b> Film and other media	1, 2	Rudolf Arnheim, "Film and Reality" (1933, 322)  Dudley Andrew "Adaptation" (1984, 461)  Screening: Stan Kubrick's <i>The Shining</i> (1980)
5	<b>Epistemology:</b> Role of the Auteur	2, 3	Andrew Sarris "Notes on the Auteur Theory in 1962" (1962, 561)  Peter Wollen "The Auteur Theory" (1972, 565)  Screening: Alfred Hitchcock's <i>Psycho</i> (1960)
6	<b>Epistemology:</b> Meaning Making I	2, 3	Christian Metz, "Some Points on the Semiotics of Cinema" (1968, 65)  Screening: Mike Flanagan's <i>Hush</i> (2016)
7	<b>Epistemology:</b> Meaning Making II	2, 3	[Response Folder due this week]  Stephen Prince, "The Discourse of Pictures: Iconicity and Film Studies" (1993, 87)  Screening: David Lynch's <i>Blue Velvet</i> (1986)
8	<b>Aesthetics:</b> Judging a film	1, 3	Jean-Louis Baudry, "Ideological Effects of the Basic Cinematographic Apparatus" (1970, 355)
9	<b>Aesthetics:</b> Visual Pleasure	1, 3	Laura Mulvey. "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (1975, 837-48)



			Tania Modleski, "The Terror of Pleasure: The Contemporary Horror Film and Postmodern Theory" (1984, 764)
10	<b>The Politics of Film I</b>	2, 3	Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (1935, 791)
11	<b>The Politics of Film II</b>	3, 4	Robert Stam and Louise Spence, "Colonialism, Racism, and Representation: An Introduction" (1977, 877-891)
12	<b>World Cinema</b>	3, 4	Ella Shohat and Robert Stam, "Unthinking Eurocentrism: Multiculturalism and the Media Stereotype, Realism, and the Struggle Over Representation" (1995, 840)  Rey Chow, "Film and Cultural Identity" (1998, 885)  Wimal Dissanayake, "Issues in World Cinema" (1998, 905)  Screening: Abbas Kiarostami's <i>Taste of Cherry</i> (1997)
13	<b>Conclusion</b>	1, 2, 3, 4	Essay and Response folder are due this week.