

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA4041 Film and Political Theory

Pre-requisites : HA1002

No. of AUs. : 4

Contact Hours : 52

Course Aims

Political theorists are increasingly turning to film as a repository of political insight that reflects fundamental facts about society and culture. This course will focus, however, less on the explicit political representations presented within specific films (for example, as in the narrative communication of already formed ideological visions of the world), in order to investigate the capacity of film to itself generate unique philosophical and political orientations via its singular form. Through reading the contributions of contemporary theorists such as Alain Badiou, Jacques Rancière, William Connolly, Davide Panagia, Joshua Foa Dienstag, Michael Shapiro, and others, we will investigate such diverse topics as film's relation to democratic thinking, the connection between cinematic and political representation, the political economy of film production, and film's embodiment of thinking the event. In addition, we will also examine a select group of particular film genres – specifically the Western, the horror, and the film noir – in order to understand what particular insights they communicate about contemporary political life.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Critically read a film and extract political knowledge or content from it.
2. Interpret contemporary political issues and problematics in light of the theoretical works studied.
3. Analyze and interpret complex textual material related to political theory.
4. Present their opinions on various political concepts in a coherent and logical way, both orally and in writing.

Course Content

1. Film and Collective Psychology
2. Benjamin on the Politicization of History and Art
3. The Political Economy of Hollywood

4. Cinema and the Event
5. Film and the Aesthetics of Democracy
6. Cinematic Representation
7. Film and Neuropolitics
8. Film and Globalization
9. Genre Politics: Noir
10. Genre Politics: Western
11. Genre Politics: Horror

Course Assessment

Class participation	: 10%
Critical Reading Responses	: 10%
Political Film Review	: 30%
Research Essay	: 50%
Total	-----
	100%