Universidad de Navarra

Film Theory (Gr.Com.Audiov+Screen Studies)

Teaching guide 2026-27

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course description: In this course, we will embark on a journey through the minds of influential film theorists who have shaped the way we understand and analyse cinema. By exploring these theories, we will develop a deeper appreciation for the artistry, cultural significance, and thought-provoking nature of film.

- **Degree**: Audiovisual Communication
- **Module/Area**: Module 1: Communication foundations. Area 1: Theory
- **Number of credits**: 3 ECTS
- **Year**: 2nd year, 1st semester.
- **Type of course**: Compulsory
- **Instructors**: Lourdes Esqueda (lesqueda@unav.es), Adriana Gordejuela (agordejuela@unav.es), and Efrén Cuevas (ecuevas@unav.es)
- **Language**: English
- **Lecture schedule**: Friday 3:30 pm - 5:15 pm (FCOM-13)
- Schedule

LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competencies)

1.KNOWLEDGE

RA1 - Students have demonstrated the possession and understanding of knowledge in an area of study that is based on general secondary education and is usually at a level that, while supported by advanced textbooks, also includes some aspects that involve knowledge from the forefront of their field of study.

RA2 - Understand and evaluate the impact of audiovisual communication in its multiple dimensions: social, cultural, historical, economic, business, legal, scientific, ethical, and technological.

RA7 - Understand and recognize the aesthetic and cultural movements throughout the history of visual imagery.

2.SKILLS

RA10 - Students can apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess the competencies typically demonstrated through the development and defense of arguments and problem-solving within their field of study.

3.COMPETENCIES

RA19 - Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) to make judgments that include reflection on socially, scientifically, or ethically relevant topics.

General Learning Outcomes

Specific Learning Outcomes

SC6 - Understand and recognize the aesthetic and cultural movements in the history of the image

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Course Objectives

1. Develop a critical-analytical attitude towards audiovisual media in its various forms.
2. Develop analytical tools for studying audiovisual narratives, with special emphasis on narrative analysis.
3. Acquire interpretative contexts that allow for the analysis of audiovisual works in different forms (fiction, documentary, experimental).

SYLLABUS

Introduction

1. The Main Film Theories

a. Formalism: Hugo Münsterberg and Rudolf Arnheim

b. Realism: Sigfried Kracauer and André Bazin

2. Audiovisual Storytelling

a. Narrative specificity of cinema

b. Narratology

- Space and sound
- Narrators
- Focalization
- Time

3. Beyond Fiction Films

a. Introduction to Non-Fiction

b. Social Media Visuals

COURSEWORK

1. In class activities: **30 hours**

- Lectures: 26 hours
- Exam: 2 hours
- Tutoring: 2 hours

* This class participates in the Innovation Teaching Project: ***La atención como experiencia estética: aprender a ver cine en la Universidad***, code **399.**

2. Personal workload: **45 hours**

- Essays and assignments: 15 hours
- Personal study: 30 hours

TOTAL: 75 hours

GRADING

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ORDINARY SESSION EXAM (DECEMBER)

- **Exam: 60%*** (The first part consists of a filter of direct questions. The second part involves an open question for an essay)
- Class deliverables: 25%
- Attendance and participation: 15%

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION EXAM (JUNE)

- Exam: 100%*

*In all cases a minimum grade of 5 in the exam is required to pass the course.

*If you have special learning needs, please inform Noelia Romero so she can notify the professors, and we can adapt to your needs.

***** Spelling and grammatical accuracy will be observed in all tasks and tests.***

***** Plagiarism is totally prohibited (including assignments totally or partially created using AI)***

The School of Communication advocates the ethical use of documentary sources and ICT resources. For this reason, any and all forms of plagiarism are completely unacceptable in this subject. **Plagiarism will be penalized** across all tasks: projects, exercises and examinations. Plagiarism is defined as the whole or partial use of textual, graphic and/or audiovisual content produced by a third party without crediting the original author(s) (that includes **generative AIs**). Likewise, any form of fraud, deception, pretense or falsification aimed at improving one's academic results by illicit means will be penalized (including the **use of an AI in order to improve your linguistic skills**). Correct spelling and grammatical accuracy are to be observed in all written tasks and examinations. The evaluation of such activities take these requirements into account.

Academic projects that draw on books, articles, films, websites and/or any other documentary sources should include a complete list of works cited. The style guide of the American Psychological Association (APA) is to be followed in this regard.

OFFICE HOURS

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

See list of mandatory materials on ADI

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY



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- BAZIN, André, *What is cinema?* Find it in the Library
- *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Film Theory*. *Find it in the Library*