

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

SPRING 2015

FREN 310 – FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE FILM

Class Time: Tu.-Th.: 2.50-4.05 – Avery Hall 8

Professor: Dr. Romain Chareyron

Office: 124 B

Office Hours: Tu.-Th. 9.00-10.00

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Website for the course

This website has been designed to provide you with important information regarding the history and the economy of French cinema. You will also be able to access some of the films/clips you are supposed to watch for this class. It is therefore essential that you visit this site on a regular basis.

Link: <http://fren310spring2015.zohosites.com>

Textbook:

-Rice, Anne-Christine. *La France contemporaine à travers ses films*, Focus Publishing, 2011.

-Handouts will be provided regarding specific aspects of filmmaking.

-Articles in connections with the films studied will also be provided in class.

Films studied

Films need to be watched outside of class time

-The films “La Sortie des usines Lumière à Lyon”, “L’Arrivée du train en gare de la Ciotat” and “Le Voyage dans la lune” can be accessed on the website designed for this class.

All other films are available for streaming on the LLRC website. To access these films:

- Click on the following link: <http://www.forlang.wsu.edu/llrc.asp>
- Then, click on the “LLRC Film Showings”, at the right of the screen.
- Then, click on “All Showings”

-Please, be aware that, for copyright reasons, these films can only be accessed within the LLRC lab at Thompson Hall (room 210). The lab hours are:

- Monday-Wednesday: 8.00am – 9.00pm
- Thursday-Friday: 8.00am – 7.00pm
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: 2.00pm – 9.00pm

Films studied:

La Règle du jeu/The Rule of the game (Jean Renoir, 1939)

Les 400 coups/The 400 Blows (François Truffaut, 1959)

Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas (Philippe Lioret, 2006)

Entre les murs/The Class (Laurent Cantet, 2008)

L'Esquive/Games of Love and Chance (Abdellatif Kechiche, 2003)

Ressources humaines/Human Resources (Laurent Cantet, 2000)

L'Auberge espagnole (Cédric Klapisch, 2002)

Le Petit Lieutenant (Xavier Beauvois, 2005)

Learning goals	Learning outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will learn about the history of French cinema, from its beginnings to the present time, with a particular focus on contemporary French cinema (i.e. cinema from the 2000's). • Students will learn to understand and discuss cinema as an art form as well as the reflection of social issues. • Students will expand their lexical knowledge related to filmmaking. • Students will become aware of specific aspects of contemporary French society, such as family, education, immigration and the professional world. • Students will develop their written and spoken abilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be able to comprehend with great topics such as family, education, immigration, and the professional world in a French context. • Students will know the specific vocabulary to discuss the significance of film as both an art form and a tool that can help us get a better understanding of contemporary French society. • Students will be able to speak and write for the purpose of expressing their opinion on topics such as family, education, immigration, and the professional world in a French context. • Students will be able to offer a nuanced and sustained opinion on the art of filmmaking.

Course evaluation

Attendance	10%
Participation/Preparation	15%
Forum	5%
Presentations (2 – 15% each)	30%
Essai 1 (first draft and final draft)	20%
Essai final	20%

Departmental and Course Grading System

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A : 93% and above	B-: 80-82	D+: 68-69
A-: 90 – 92	C+: 78-79	D: 62-67
B+: 88 – 89	C: 73-77	F: below 62
B : 83 – 87	C-: 70-72	

MOODLE: Students will have access to our class web site on Moodle; to access Moodle, go to: <http://www.forlang.wsu.edu>; click on Moodle on the right and enter your WSU student username and password. Then, click on your course: FL-FREN-310-01. You will find some course information there (syllabus and schedule) and will be able to check your grades after each test by clicking on ‘Grades’ in the left menu.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE: Learning a foreign language can be very intimidating; students are therefore strongly reminded to be kind towards classmates and supportive of each other’s efforts.

I also want to stress out some important aspects regarding this class:

- **Cell phones are strictly forbidden!!!** Anyone using their phones during class will get their participation grade lowered by 1% each time.
- **There are no ins and outs during class!!!** Which means that anyone arriving more than 5 minutes late and/or leaving before the end of class will get a “0” for attendance on that day.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is mandatory. Students must contact the instructor by email or phone when sick or unable to attend class due to an emergency situation (sickness, accident, family emergency). Absences for ANY other reasons will not be excused; you must schedule your medical appointments, advising sessions and job interviews outside of class time. **Late homework assignments won’t be accepted.**

PARTICIPATION/PREPARATION: Since we will be dealing with concepts that are new to most of you, it is essential that you come prepared to class. You will be assigned reading, in French and English, regarding specific aspects of filmmaking, social and cultural aspects of French society, as well as articles/essays on the films studied. They are designed to give you a better understanding of cinema as both an art form as well as a cultural comment on French society. They will also help you formulate your own remarks/criticisms regarding the films studied. These readings might be challenging at times, which is why you need to spend the necessary amount of time on them, to get a good grasp on what is being discussed. It will help you get a more accurate idea of French cinema and French society. They will also most likely raise questions that we will discuss in class. Preparedness for each class is essential, so that we can have fruitful and constructive discussions and you can improve your understanding of French cinema and French culture.

Preparation includes:

- Watching each film and answering the questions connected to the films.
- Doing all the assigned readings.
- Being ready to participate in the discussions we'll have in class.

Failure to do so will result in a significant lowering of your final grade.

Preparation will also be evaluated through regular quizzes.

FORUM: For each of the films studied, you will have to post a comment on the course's forum. The forum is on Moodle. Your comment can be:

- A personal reflection on some aspect of the film (cinematography, social/cultural content, etc.)
- A question regarding some aspects of the film (plot, acting, etc.)
- A comment regarding the assigned readings.
- A reaction to what someone else in the class might have posted.

In addition to posting your own comment, you will also have to read what the other students have written.

PRESENTATIONS: Each student will do two (2) 10-minute presentations in connection with the topics discussed in class. The presentation will focus on specific aspects of French society as represented in the films, as well as on specific elements of *mise-en-scène* used by the director to convey their message. More information will be provided in class.

ESSAI 1: Students will be asked to choose from a list of proposed topics. This essay will be 3 pages long and consist of a detailed and sustained analysis of the selected topic. Students will have to submit a first draft of their essay on **Tuesday, March 5th**. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of the grade for this section. More information will be provided in class.

ESSAI FINAL: Students will be asked to choose from a list of proposed topics. This essay will be 4 pages long and consist of a detailed and sustained analysis of the selected topic. The deadline to submit the final essay is **Monday, May 4th. @ 1.00pm**. Students must turn in a hard copy of their essay. Late assignments and electronic copies will not be accepted. More information will be provided in class.

Language Learning Resource Center (LLRC): This class does not carry a special course fee. Should you wish to access the many services offered by the Language Learning Resource Center (LLRC), please complete the Lab Fee Request Form available in the LLRC (Thompson 210) to purchase a semester lab pass (\$20) and submit it to the LLRC Director in Thompson 224F. In the LLRC you will have access to computer-based language learning resources and multi-lingual word processing as well as basic printing services. In addition, the LLRC offers a welcoming learning environment with multiple computer stations for you to work individually or with fellow students on course assignments.

DFLC PROFICIENCY EXAM FOR GRADUATING MAJORS AND MINORS

All DFLC students graduating with either a major or a minor in a foreign language are required to take an exit proficiency exam at the end of the academic term in which they complete the last course of their major/minor. This exam, the STAMP 4S, can be taken in the LLRC at the end of each semester. This semester, two sessions of STAMP have been scheduled: **Friday, April 24th 4pm-7pm** and **Sunday, April 26th 3pm-6pm**. Your instructor will provide you with sign-up information in the course of the semester. A practice test is also available at http://avantassessment.com/test_taker_practice_test. This exam currently costs \$25.00 and can be paid as a voucher through the Bookie.

There is no minimum proficiency level that must be demonstrated in order to complete a foreign language minor/major. STAMP 4S measures the ability to read, speak, write, and aurally comprehend a language. The completion of this exam offers immediate concrete benefits to students. Because the STAMP 4S is administered by a nationally-recognized testing company, the results provide a widely-respected, accurate measure of a student's level of foreign language proficiency that can be used in future professional endeavors, i.e. on resumes, job applications, scholarship applications, and/or graduate school applications.

No student will be prevented from graduating or from earning their foreign language major/minor due to their performance on this exam. WSU mandates assessment of student proficiency at the end of the major and minor, and results from these exams are used to improve the quality of WSU programs.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity will be strongly enforced in this course. Students are expected to work individually on all assignments described above (homework assignments, quizzes, presentations, papers, mid-term exam and final exam), unless otherwise specified by the instructor. Any student caught cheating on any assignment will be given an F for the assignment or the course (depending on the gravity of the violation) and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center (DRC). All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the DRC (Washington Building, Room 217). Please stop by or call 509-335-3417 to make an appointment with a disability specialist.

SAFETY STATEMENT

Washington State University is committed to maintaining a safe environment of its faculty, staff and students. The university has developed a resource to ensure this safety, the Campus Safety Plan, which can be found at <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu>. It contains a comprehensive listing of university policies, procedures, statistics, and information relating to campus safety, emergency management, and the health and welfare of the campus community. In addition, the University emergency management web site at <http://oem.wsu.edu/emergencies> provides additional campus safety and emergency information. All students are requested to bookmark in their computers and become familiar with the WSU ALERT site (<http://alert.wsu.edu>) to read about warning and emergency notification procedures.

All students are requested to register their emergency contact information for the Crisis Communication System (CCS). To do so, go to the *myWSU* portal at <http://my.wsu.edu>, enter your network ID and password and, once you are on your *myWSU* main webpage, look for the Emergency Notification box on the right side of the page and click on Register. You will be asked to enter you cell, landline, and email contact information to ensure you receive any notification as soon as possible. Finally, if you need help evaluating your area in terms of safety and emergency management or have any recommendations, contact Chris Tapfer, University Emergency Management Coordinator at tapfer@wsu.edu or 335-7471 or visit the Office of Emergency Management site at <http://oem.wsu.edu>.

FREN 310

CALENDAR

Semaine 1 (Jan. 13, 15)

Homework

Tu. Introduction to course

Th. Les débuts du cinéma

Th. -Lire « Points de repère historiques » points 1 et 2 (stop at « L'Avant-guerre et la guerre »)

-Voir « La Sortie des usines Lumière à Lyon »; « L'arrivée du train en gare de La Ciotat » et « Le Voyage dans la lune »

Semaine 2 (Jan. 20, 22)

Tu. L'avant garde/Le réalisme poétique

Tu. - Lire « Points de repère historiques » point 5 (jusqu'à 5.3)

-Voir « La Règle du jeu/The Rule of the Game »

Forum

Th. La qualité française/La "Nouvelle vague"

Th. - Lire « Points de repère historiques » du point 7.2 jusqu'à la fin.

-Voir « Les 400 coups/The 400 Blows »

Semaine 3 (Jan. 27, 30)

Tu. Les années 80: Le cinéma du "look"/Les années 90: un renouveau du cinéma d'auteur

Tu. -Lire « Points de repère historiques » points 10 et 11.

-Voir les bandes-annonces/extraits de « Subway » ; « Diva » et « Betty Blue »

Forum

Th. How to analyze and discuss films.

Th. -Lire « Éléments » (pp.1-15) (stop at « Le Montage »)

Semaine 4 (Feb. 3, 5)

Tu. How to analyze and discuss films.

Th. « Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas »/La famille

Th. - **Voir le film pour le jeudi 5 février**

Forum

-Lire la photocopie sur la famille + préparer les questions a et b de la section 3 (p.8) et pensez à des éléments de réponse pour la question « Une Situation typiquement française » (p.9)

Semaine 5 (Feb. 10, 12)

Tu. « Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas »

Tu. – Discussion : Préparer la question 2 (p.8) et les question 1, 2 et 3 de la section « Les Limites du film » (p.9)

Th. « Entre les murs/The Class »/Le Système éducatif

Th. – **Voir le film pour le jeudi 12 février**

Forum

-Lire pp.29-34 (to 6.a.)

Semaine 6 (Feb. 17, 19)

Tu. « Entre les murs »

Tu. – Discussion

Th. How to discuss acting styles

Th. – Lire « Performance » (Sikov pp.129-134)

-Comparaisons entre « Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas » et « Entre les murs »

Semaine 7 (Feb. 24, 26)

Tu. « L'Esquive »/Immigration, intégration

Tu. – **Voir le film « L'Esquive » pour le mardi 24 février**

Forum

-Lire la photocopie sur l'immigration + lire pp.61-65

Th. « L'Esquive »

Th. Préparer les questions 1 à 7 (pp71-72)

Semaine 8 (March 3, 5)

Tu. « L'Esquive »

Tu. – Lire article Dana Strand « Être et parler... » + Discussion

Th. **Présentations**

First draft of Essay 1 is due on Tuesday.

Semaine 9 (March 10, 12)

Tu. **Présentations**

Th. « Ressources humaines »/Le Monde du travail

Th. – Voir le film « Ressources humaines » pour le jeudi 12 mars

Forum

– Lire la photocopie sur le travail

– Préparer les questions de la section 1 (pp.113-114) et les questions 4, 5, 7 (pp.116-117)

Semaine 10 (March 17, 19)

Spring Vacation

Semaine 11 (March 24, 26)

Tu. « Ressources humaines »

Tu. – Terminer le travail du jeudi 12 mars + préparer les questions 1, 2, 4, 7, 10 (pp.122-123)

Th. « Ressources humaines »/How to discuss film genres

Th. – Lire article de Will Higbee + Discussion

Essay 1 is due on Thursday.

Semaine 12 (March 31, Apr. 2)

Tu. « L'Auberge espagnole »/L'Union européenne

Tu. – Voir le film « **L'Auberge espagnole** » pour le mardi 31 mars

Forum

-Lire la photocopie sur l'Union européenne + préparer les questions a, b, c, d de la section 7 (p.94)

Th. « L'Auberge espagnole »

Th. – Discussion

Semaine 13 (Apr. 7, 9)

Tu. « Le Petit lieutenant »/La Police

Tu. – Voir le film « **Le Petit lieutenant** » pour le mardi 7 avril

Forum

Tu. – Lire le document sur la République française + répondre aux sections a, b, et c de la question 1 (p.172) et pensez à des éléments de réponse pour la question « Une situation typiquement française ? » (p.173)

Th. « Le Petit lieutenant »

Semaine 14 (Apr. 14, 16)

Tu. TBD

Th. Bilan : Le cinéma français aujourd'hui, en France et dans le monde

Le cinéma français contemporain : les grandes tendances, les traits distinctifs (films étudiés pendant le semestre)

Semaine 15 (Apr. 21, 23)

Tu. Présentations

Th. Présentations

Semaine 16 (Apr. 28, 30)

I will be away at a conference during this week.

