

How to Read Film

Date	16 January 2016	Time	10.00-16.45
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Academic Director	Yvonne Salmon	Course code	1516NDX036

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator
01223 746237 clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk

To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Yvonne Salmon lectures at Cambridge University on film, literature, art and law, and is Chair of the Cambridge University Counterculture Research Group and director of the Alchemical Landscape project, looking at psychogeography and the magic of space. She also has a parallel career in film, art, and performance.

Day school content:

Have you ever wanted to get more out of your favourite films or had the feeling that a film had something to say? If so, this course can help! It will provide a general introduction to the interpretation of popular cinema and will outline some of the basic tools and techniques you'll need to get the most out of your next trip to the cinema.

Topics considered will include: formal analysis, auteur theory, gendered readings and contextual studies. Film technique will be covered as will aspects of film production. Clips will be used to highlight key points and students will be encouraged to develop their own readings. The course will run a workshop format which will include brief talks from the tutor, short screenings, discussion opportunities and a group presentation exercise.

The specific films discussed during the day will be drawn from modern and contemporary Hollywood cinema. No prior knowledge or experience is required, just a healthy interest in watching too many films!

Programme:

09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Why ‘Read’ and not ‘Watch’? Introduction of participants/ ice-breaker; course outline. Film theory and its uses: interpretation and criticism. Text – Context – Subtext. Tony Scott, Quentin Tarantino and the case of <i>Top Gun</i> (1986).
11:15 Coffee	
11:45 – 13:00	What are we Reading? The language of film. Editing and montage. Mise-en-scène. Voice-over, music and meaning. Sergei Eisenstein, <i>Battleship Potemkin</i> (1925). Martin Scorsese, <i>Taxi Driver</i> (1976).
13:00 Lunch	
14:00 – 15:15	The Act of Looking, or: Reading the Gaze Laura Mulvey, ‘Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema’ (1975). Alfred Hitchcock’s <i>Psycho</i> (1960) and <i>that</i> scene. Slavoj Zizek on <i>The Conversation</i> (1974) and <i>Psycho</i> .
15:15 Tea	
15:30 – 16:45	Read it! Course participants split into small groups. Each group will prepare a short presentation (10 mins) that will offer a critical reading of a scene shown at the start of the session. Joss Whedon, <i>The Avengers</i> (2012).
16:45	Day school ends

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Antony Easthope (ed.) *Contemporary Film Theory* (London: Longman, 1993).

Peter Biskind, *Easy Riders and Raging Bulls* (London: Bloomsbury, 1998).

Louis Giannetti, *Understanding Movies* (USA: Prentice Hall, 1990).

Laura Mulvey, 'Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema' (1975) in Leo Braudy and Marshall Cohen (eds.) *Film Theory and Criticism: Introductory Readings*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999).

http://www.composingdigitalmedia.org/f15_mca/mca_reads/mulvey.pdf

Michael Singer, *A Cut Above* (USA: Lone Eagle, 1998).

Students are welcome to watch any of the films listed above in advance of the course but this is not an essential requirement.

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on

ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 12 January 2016