

**Canadian Studies 591.01**  
**Senior Seminar in Canadian Studies**  
**Canada, Urban Identity, and Contemporary Cinema**  
Fall 2012  
Wednesday 16:00-18:50 ST 057

**Instructor:** Prof. George Melnyk  
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**Web Page:**  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 15:00-15:45 or by appointment

**Additional Information**

This senior seminar consists of film screenings, seminar presentations and discussions, a mid-term test and a research paper.

**Course Description**

This is a senior seminar in Canadian Studies. This semester's topic is Canada's contemporary urban identities as represented in Canadian feature films made by auteur directors living in those cities. The course is interdisciplinary with a focus on Canadian Studies issues of identity, Film Studies issues of authorship, and Urban Studies issues of urban psychology and sociology. The subject matter of the course can be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives including history, psychology, sociology, literature, film, and architecture or any combination of them. The course introduces the concept of the *urban-imaginary* and the concept of *cultural grammars* as analytical tools for understanding contemporary Canadian urbanity. Students are expected to use these theoretical tools in analyzing representations of Canadian urbanity in Canadian cinema from 1989 to 2007.

**Objectives of the Course**

To foster a discussion of contemporary Canadian urbanity.

To encourage a dialogue on multicultural and multiracial urban populations.

To understand the cultural grammars that underlie cinematic representation of Canadian urbanity.

To develop a student's ability to view Canada as a diverse urban society.

To allow senior students to combine their Canadian Studies background with other disciplinary areas.

### **Textbooks and Readings:**

The required reading is George Melnyk, *Film and the City: The Urban Imaginary in Canadian Cinema*, which will be made available on Blackboard in a pre-publication digital version.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

#### **1. Class Presentation: 15% of final grade**

Each student in the class shall make a class presentation on the seminar topic they have selected at the beginning of the course. The class presentation will deal with a discussion of the film by the presenter and a critique of the required reading on the film. The written version of the presentation (800-1200 words) shall be made available to the instructor and the students one week prior to the presentation by e-mail or Blackboard. This assignment will be graded 10% on the written version and 5% on the oral presentation.

#### **2. Mid-Term Take Home Test: 45% of final grade**

Each student in the class shall receive a Mid-Term Take-Home Test in class on **Oct.24, 2012**. The test is open-book and will consist of three questions, each of which is to be answered in a 800-1000 word essay. Each short essay is 15% of the final grade. The test is due at the beginning of class **Oct.31,2012**. This assignment must be handed in hard copy only.

#### **3. Research Paper: 40 % of final grade**

Each student in the class shall write a research paper which will be due at the beginning of class on **Dec. 05, 2012**. The research paper will be 2500-3500 words in length and will deal with one of the films viewed in the course. The paper will provide the following four Elements: historical and authorial background of the film; a discussion of the cultural grammars in the film; a comparison of the film with at least one other films on that city and how it differs from that film; an assessment of how the film deconstructs common stereotypes of that city. Each element will be worth 10% of the final grade. This paper must be handed in hard copy only.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.  
Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS110. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No**

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

**Assignments submitted after the deadline will be assessed one letter grade lower for each day late (e.g. A to A-). Exceptions may be made for documented medical emergencies or similar unforeseen events with the approval of the Instructor. Weekend days do not count for late deductions. No assignments will be accepted after 4 p.m. Dec. 07, 2012. Any assignments still outstanding at that time will received a grade of 0.**

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

### **Grading System**

	<b>Grading Scale</b>
<b>A+</b>	<b>96-100</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>90-95.99</b>
<b>A -</b>	<b>85-89.99</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>80-84.99</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>75-79.99</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>70-74.99</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>65-69.99</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>60-64.99</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>55-59.99</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>53-54.99</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>50-52.99</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0-49</b>

## **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

**A schedule of seminar topics and reading will be posted on Blackboard after September 1, 2012 and a hard copy will be made available at the first class.**

## **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **Internet and electronic communication device information**

**Electronic devices such as laptop computers are allowed in class for note-taking only. No other uses are approved. Cell phones must be turned off.**

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Academic Accommodation Policy**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

## **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points

differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **"SAFEWALK" Program**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Student Representation**

Another source of information that you may wish to use is your student representative. All faculties elect students to represent them on the Students Union. Please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.