

**FRENCH 380 – 01: FRENCH/FRANCOPHONE FILM
“QUEBEC CLASSICS”
FALL 2006
PROFESSOR MILÉNA SANTORO**

**OFFICE: ICC 421C PHONE: 7-4139
EMAIL: SANTOROM@GEORGETOWN.EDU
OFFICE HOURS: T/THURS 11:30-12:15**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Film is the seventh art, and a form of creative expression and entertainment that is unique to the past century. It portrays our society, even as it distorts that portrait, magnifying certain questions while it elides others. The study of film can give insights into not only what was and is, but also what could be or could have been, in a given society at a chosen time. It is a medium of vision, in all senses of the word.

In this discussion-based course, the focus is on films that reflect (on) Québec society: its individual and collective identities, its history, its conflicts and its cultural vitality. Students will view and discuss feature films, documentaries and animated shorts that are seldom seen in the United States, by directors as varied as Denys Arcand, Claude Jutra, Jacques Godbout, Frédéric Back, Robert Lepage and Paule Baillargeon. Attention will be paid to the specialized vocabulary of cinema, and to various critical approaches to film analysis. Students will be encouraged to "read" films in a similar fashion to the way we "read" literature at the university level, that is, with an active critical mind, rather than just for passive enjoyment. In all instances, films will be discussed as both expressions of and contributors to their specific culture as well as "works of art" in their own right.

REQUIRED TEXTS / MATERIALS:

MARCEL JEAN, *Le Cinéma québécois* (BORÉAL EXPRESS, 1991). ISBN: 2-89052-413-2
YVES LEVER, *L'Analyse filmique* (BORÉAL, 1993) ISBN : 2890524876

Students are **REQUIRED** to view films **BEFORE** coming to class unless otherwise directed. Films are available in the gelardin center of Lauinger library, where they have been placed on the streaming server. You should be able to view them at any time that the center is open. If you need assistance in viewing a film, please consult with the gelardin center staff.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) Participation in class discussions. This means students must come to class prepared, having seen the films and done the readings.
- 2) 8 to10 “blog” submissions on the discussion board of the course website. Two paragraphs per submission, the first can be a more personal reaction to the

film, the second must reflect in more depth on one of the technical or artistic dimensions of the film, including but not limited to: a particular scene, character or element of the film (ex. The use of color, sound, music, settings, lighting, framing, etc). the second paragraph should demonstrate an **ACTIVE READING** of the film, rather than simply its passive enjoyment. Please note that other students can and will read your submissions, so care should be taken to write in legible, reasonably grammatically correct French. The blog submissions will not be individually graded but will receive comments and completion of the 8-10 contributions will count for ½ of the class participation grade.

- 3) One quiz on film vocabulary
- 4) One oral presentation, 10 minutes in length, one a pre-assigned topic (see suggested list below). This presentation should be discussed with the instructor before it is given, to ensure acceptable content, grammar and style.
- 5) Two papers, submitted in hard copy in class on the dates due, double-spaced with 12 point font.
 - a. A mid-term “compte rendu” of a film not seen in class. The content and style of this 5-page assignment will be discussed before it is due.
 - b. A final paper comparing two films seen in class, 8-10 pages in length. The topic of the final paper will be determined in conjunction with the professor, but will be based on individual student interests. This paper may require some research; given that Lauinger contains little on quebec cinema, students are encouraged to narrow down the topic as soon after the mid-term paper as possible so as to obtain research materials in time for use in the assignment.

EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Participation: 40%

Quiz: 5%

Oral presentation: 10%

Mid-term paper: 15%

Final Paper: 30 %

Note: there will be no final exam for this course.

Remarques sur les devoirs écrits:

Toute rédaction doit me parvenir tapée à la machine ou à l'ordinateur, double interligne, avec votre nom, un titre, et tous les accents. Pour vous aider à taper vos devoirs en français, consultez si nécessaire le logiciel (word-processor) disponible au Language Laboratory (2nd floor ICC). Le logiciel est muni d'un dictionnaire (spell-checker) pour vous aider à éliminer les fautes de frappe etc.

Chaque fois que vous me rendez un devoir, je m'attends à un travail de qualité, sans fautes d'inattention, sans fautes d'orthographe, et soigné dans toute la mesure du

possible. Si toutefois votre meilleur effort aboutit à une note de B- ou moins, je permets des réécritures. La note s'améliorera si vous arrivez à corriger vos erreurs grammaticales et d'autres problèmes d'écriture, et si vous évitez de commettre encore d'autres (nouvelles) erreurs. Normalement, la note finale d'une composition sera la moyenne des notes accordées aux deux versions de votre travail.

Notez bien: Si vous rencontrez des difficultés au cours de la rédaction de vos devoirs, je vous prie de me contacter, pour que je puisse répondre à vos questions et vous aider à résoudre les problèmes éventuels. Je suis toujours à votre disposition pour vous aider à mieux écrire! **NE CHERCHEZ PAS L'AIDE DE VOS AMIS, SANS PERMISSION PRÉALABLE.** En outre, il faut toujours citer toutes les sources que vous utilisez dans la rédaction de vos devoirs, même si vous ne faites qu'utiliser des idées, sans utiliser les mêmes mots. L'intellectuel honnête met des notes en bas de page, ou bien des notes à la fin d'un devoir, en plus d'une bibliographie. Si vous ne savez pas comment le faire, ou si vous avez des doutes sur quelque source que ce soit, venez me voir, et je vous aiderai. **TO DO OTHERWISE CONSTITUTES PLAGIARISM, and will be reported immediately to the HONOR COUNCIL for disciplinary action. Don't take any chances with your work -- when in doubt, come check it out!**

And once again in case you missed it:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

NO outside help or collaboration is allowed unless expressly permitted by the instructor. ALL sources consulted, including online resources, must be referenced appropriately. Infringement of either principle constitutes violation of the HONOR CODE and will be reported.