



French 320g-34267D : The French New Wave and its Legacy
Professor Panivong Norindr

Class will meet on Zoom: T/Th 11AM-12:20PM

Course Description

This is a course in the study of French cinema, from the New Wave to contemporary French cinema. The class will be taught in English. It is designed to help students develop a critical understanding of how films produce meaning. To that end, it approaches cinema as an art form, an industry, and a system of representation and communication, examining how films work technically, aesthetically and culturally. We will screen films by Truffaut, Godard, Resnais, Varda, Rivette, Beineix, Breillat, Kassovitz and others. Supplementary readings will address the history of the New Wave, the condition of its production, as well as such watershed moments in French cultural history as the Great War, the Occupation, the Holocaust, May 68, the postmodern and postcolonial age. Of particular concern will be the cinema's role in both defining and perpetuating various visions of French national and cultural identity. It also explores some of the social, political and theoretical questions raised by French cinema since the establishment of the Fifth Republic in 1958.



This course counts toward the French minor or major, and fulfills the GE-A (Arts) requirement

Required Texts

--All essays, book chapters, scholarly articles, and interviews will be accessible on blackboard.

Screenings

All films will be screened outside of class time.

Course Requirements

All students must watch the assigned movie prior to our class meeting on zoom so that we can have an informed discussion of the film. You will have access to all the movies on the program via a link provided via email. Because you will have seen the movies before class, class time will be devoted to an in-depth discussion of the film screened at home and the readings assigned for that day. You will be also introduced to other film texts that are relevant to the class discussion. Because the course will be run as a seminar, students are expected to contribute frequently and imaginatively to the classroom dialogue. Students are expected to keep up with the assigned readings. You will also write 5 response-papers (3-4 pages long) to a film during the semester—they can be also on recent French films not on the program and screened outside the classroom. You will be required to write two extended essays: the first one, 8-10 pages long, due mid-semester; the second one, in lieu of a final exam, will be submitted as a final research paper, 12-15 pages long, on a topic of your choice. You have a wide latitude but please confer with me. It is due on **Tuesday, May 11, 1:00 p.m.**

Grading

Participation (oral participation, attendance, etc.)	15 %
5 response papers (3-4 pages)	25% (5X 5%)
midterm paper (8-10 pages)	25%
final paper (12-15 pages)/ or multimedia project	35%