

Film and Philosophy
AS. 300. 229. 13
The Humanities Center

Prof. Larry McGrath
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OH: By Appointment

Meeting Times: TThF 1:00pm-4:00pm
Location: Gilman 55

This course offers an introduction to basic concepts in the theory of film and classic problems in the history of philosophy. Our goal is to stage a dialogue between the two in order to see the unique ways that cinema helps us understand the nature of human consciousness. The course is organized chronologically as we watch films, both foreign and American, ranging from the 1940s to 2000s. Students will be expected to have read and be ready to discuss assigned literature before each class. Students are also expected to watch a film on their own time if they are unable to attend a screening.

Grading: This course is graded pass/fail. Passing depends on three elements: participation (students are permitted one absence), a short unannounced exam, and a 10 minute presentation during the final two days of the course in which students present, appreciate, and critique a 3-5 minute clip of an assigned film.

Finally, please do NOT bring a laptop computer to class. Exceptions will be made for students with disabilities.

Jan. 8 Watch *La Jetée* [*The Jetty*] (Chris Marker, 1962).

Jan. 10 *Ladri di biciclette* [*The Bicycle Thief*] (Vittorio de Sica, 1948)
Siegfried Kracauer, "Basic Concepts" in *Theory of Film*

Jan. 11 *À bout de souffle* [*Breathless*] (Jean-Luc Godard, 1960)
André Bazin, "Bicycle Thief" in *What is Cinema?*

Jan. 15 *La charme discret de la bourgeoisie* [*The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*] (Luis Buñuel, 1972)
Gilles Deleuze, selections from *Cinema 1*

Jan. 17 *Manhattan* (Woody Allen, 1979)
Gilles Deleuze continued

Jan. 18 *Mulholland Drive* (David Lynch, 2001)
Friedrich Nietzsche, *On Truth and Lies in a Non-Moral Sense*
<http://faculty.uml.edu/enelson/truth&lies.htm>

Jan. 22 *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* (Wes Anderson, 2004)
Maurice Merleau-Ponty, "The Film and the New Psychology"

Jan. 24 Student Presentations

Jan. 25 Student Presentations