

**RC201**  
**FILM HISTORY AND THEORY I**  
**FALL 2008**

**INSTRUCTOR: Melis Behlil**  
**Department of Radio, Television and Cinema**  
**Kadir Has University**  
**Monday 14:00-17:50, D-105**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Thursday 14:00-16:00 – or by appointment: melisb@khas.edu.tr

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This is a survey course aiming to familiarize students with the major movements, figures, films from the history of cinema. The course will cover the entire period from the silent era to contemporary filmmaking, taking into account the socio-political, economic and cultural backgrounds of different movements and styles. Classes will be supported by film screenings.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

The class will consist of weekly four-hour lectures, including screenings. You are responsible for the feature films shown in class.

Attendance is strongly advised since screened clips will not be available outside the class, and attendance & participation account for 10% of the final grade.

The readings in the syllabus are provided not only to complement lectures, but to provide a basis and a framework for discussions, so the students should come to class having read them. At the beginning of some of the classes, there will be a short quiz to test your grasp of concepts covered in the reading. four highest quizzes will count towards your term grade.

There will be two short papers of 2-3 pages each, due on the dates indicated below. These assignments will be distributed in class one week before the due dates. Grades will be lowered for late papers. Plagiarized papers will fail. There will be one midterm during the lectures (on 10/11/2008), and a final during finals' week.

If you want extra assignments to improve your grade, you must contact me BEFORE the class ends.

**GRADING:**

Short Papers (2)	20%
Quizzes	20%
Attendance & Participation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

**FILMFEST:**

Your final grade will be calculated by adding the points you receive from Filmfest, taught by Tevfik Başer. You are required to attend Filmfest on Wednesdays, 10:00-13:00. These points will make up 15% of your grade.

**COURSE MATERIAL:**

The readings will be from the following book, which I advise you to buy. However, the pages you need will be available at the copier.

- Bordwell, David & Thompson, Kristin. Film History: An Introduction, Second Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2003.

For those interested in doing extra reading, the following books provide information on topics covered in this class.

- Cook, David. A History of Narrative Film. New York: W.W. Norton, 1996.
- Ellis, Jack. A History of Film. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1995.
- Nowell-Smith, Geoffrey. The Oxford History of World Cinema. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. (This book has been published in Turkish by Kabalcı)

You are advised to do the readings before the lecture, and ask questions.

**Distribution of Topics:** (Subject to change - all changes will be announced on the Blackboard)

<b>Week 1</b>	22/09/08	Introduction: What is film history? Early Cinema, first examples
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 1-31
Screening:		Early film examples by Lumières Brothers, Edison, etc.
<b>Week 2</b>	29/09/08	<b>Holiday!</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	06/10/08	Filmmaking Before and During WWI: Emerging film language, shifting balances
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 33-80
Screening:		A selection of films
<b>Week 4</b>	13/10/08	Studios in the Twenties: Weimar Cinema, birth of the Hollywood studio system
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 85-100, 119-141
Screening:		NOSFERATU (Murnau, 1922)
<b>Week 5</b>	20/10/08	Twenties' Avant-Garde: French and Soviet experimental cinema
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 101-118, 143-162
Screening:		BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN (Eisenstein, 1925)
<b>Week 6</b>	27/10/08	The Coming of Sound, Production Code and Classical Hollywood
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 193-237; The Production Code
Screening:		THE MALTESE FALCON (Huston, 1941)
<b>Week 7</b>	03/11/08	Europe Before the War: French poetic realism, and the state-supported cinemas
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 261-301
Screening:		LA REGLE DU JEU (Renoir, 1938)
<b>Week 8</b>	10/11/08	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	17/11/08	Realism in Post-War Europe and Hollywood
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 325-351, 353-369
Screening:		ROME, OPEN CITY (Rossellini, 1945)
<b>Week 10</b>	24/11/08	Asian Film: Japan and India after WWII
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 391-396, 407-411
Screening:		RASHOMON (Kurosawa, 1950)
<b>Week 11</b>	01/12/08	Auteur Cinema: 1950s 'art cinema' and authorship
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 415-437
Screening:		THE SEVENTH SEAL (Bergman, 1957)
<b>Week 12</b>	08/12/08	<b>Holiday!</b>
<b>Week 13</b>	15/12/08	Nouvelle Vague: French new wave
		<b>Short Paper 1 due!</b>
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 439-450
Screening:		BREATHLESS (Jean-Luc Godard, 1960)
<b>Week 14</b>	22/12/08	New Movements in Europe: Filmmaking in the East and in the West
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 451-468
Screening:		8 ½ (Federico Fellini, 1963)
<b>Week 15</b>	29/01/08	Politically Critical Cinema of the 1960s and 70s: Third Cinema, Hollywood Renaissance
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 535-553, 516-521
Screening:		YOL (Gören, 1982)
<b>Week 16</b>	05/01/09	The 1980s and After: Toward a Global Film Culture
		<b>Short Paper 2 due!</b>
Reading:		Bordwell & Thompson 679-723
Screening:		PULP FICTION (Tarantino, 1994)

**Final during exam week:** 12-21 January 2009