

## **EUROP 424: “Boundaries and Borders”**

**FALL 2014**

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### **Course Description:**

The course will examine European cinema from a thematic rather than historical perspective. The thematic content of “boundaries & borders” is explored in a variety of relevant contemporary films. This is a “hands on” on course with weekly film viewing and active participation in class discussions. Throughout the semester we will look not only at how the physical medium of film is used to create narrative, but also investigate how Europeans portray themselves and others in film. Through discussion, critical reading and writing assignments and exams, we will learn to identify some of the major film styles, directors and cultural contexts for these films, as well as analyze film techniques and gain a better understanding of European culture.

### **Goals and Outcomes:**

- Define several key cinematic terms.
- Situate the films and their themes in historical and cultural context.
- Identify the key social, political and cultural factors portrayed in the films.
- Examine the films for technique, theme and narrative style.
- Analyze a cultural issue in European Studies from a multi-disciplinary perspective.
- Assess and evaluate the role the “Other” in European cinema and culture.

### **Required Course Materials:**

- Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson, *Film Art*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition

### **Policy on reading, homework, and late assignments:**

- All assigned readings should be done prior to the class. Late assignments will receive lower grades: one day late = one grade lower, two days late = two grades lower, etc. Exception: pre-approved or approved late submission or lateness in connection with an excused absence.
- All written homework must be turned in as a TYPED HARD COPY, double-spaced in 12-point font, and stapled. Any written homework that is not typed will not be graded and will receive a zero. I will not open emailed written assignments unless you’ve made arrangements with me before the day it’s due.
- For both missing class and late submission of assignments: I strongly encourage you to communicate with me about any problems you’re having. I usually work with my students on helping them catch up and get on track again, if there are serious reasons beyond their control for having missed class or assignments. Being overworked, forgetting, having too little time, tests/exams in other classes, etc. are NOT reasons that would qualify.

### **Academic Integrity:**

College of Arts and Letters expects the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical performance from students. It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism. *All incidents of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Judicial Procedures*

***Office as required by CSU Policy.***

- Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:
- for written work, copy down or cut anything from a book, article or website and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number
  - for written work, summarize / paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the full reference for the source (including page number in the humanities)
  - for an oral presentation, copy down or cut anything from a book, article, or website and present it orally as if it were your own words. You must summarize and paraphrase in your own words, and bring a list of references in case the professor asks to see it
  - use visuals or graphs you got from a book, article, or website without providing the full reference for the picture or table
  - recycle a paper you wrote for another class
  - turn in the same (or a very similar paper) for two classes
  - purchase or otherwise obtain a paper and turn it in as your own work
  - copy off of a classmate
  - use technology or smuggle in documents to obtain or check information in an exam situation

In a research paper, it is always better to include too many references than not enough. When in doubt, always err on the side of caution. If you have too many references it might make your professor smile; if you don't have enough you might be suspected of plagiarism. If you have any question or uncertainty about what is or is not cheating, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor.

**Consequences of cheating and plagiarism:**

***SDSU instructors are mandated to report all instances of cheating and plagiarism to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibility.*** Consequences are at the instructor's and the Center for Student Rights and Responsibility's discretion. They may include any of the following:

failing the assignment	warning	suspension
failing the class	probation	expulsion

For more detailed information, read the chapter on plagiarism in the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) (6<sup>th</sup> edition, 2003); visit the following website <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml> and talk to your professors before turning in your paper or doing your oral presentation.

The University of Indiana also has very helpful writing hints for students, including some on how to cite sources. Please visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets.shtml> for more information.

**Access:**

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at [\(619\) 594-6473](tel:619-594-6473). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Grading: (250 points)**

**Participation in class discussions: 15% (37)**

**Research Paper: 32% (80 points)**

**3 Film Response Papers: 18% (15 \* 3)**

**Midterm: 15% (38)**

**Final Exam: 20% (50 points)**

**Schedule of Assignments**

**WEEK 1 (Aug. 26):**

Course Introduction

**WEEK 2 (Sept. 2):**

**Film: *La Promesse (Belgium)* – 94 minutes**

**Readings: “In a Cruel City” *New Republic***

**Readings: *Bordwell 112-133;136-154***

**WEEK 3 (Sept. 9):**

**Film: *Dirty Pretty Things (England)* –**

**Readings: *Bordwell Ch. 2 (pp. 50—63;66-70)***

**WEEK 4 (Sept. 16):**

**Film: *I Love You (Russia)* – 86 minutes**

**•Readings: Ch. 3 (72-81; 84-93; 96-99)**

*\*online discussion post*

**WEEK 5 (Sept. 23):**

**Film: *Belorussian Waltz (Bulgaria)*—74 minutes**

**First Film Response Paper Due**

**WEEK 6 (Sept. 30):**

**Film: *In Darkness (Poland)* –145 minutes**

**Readings: *Excerpts from Bordwell Ch. 9 (pp. 329-333; 336-339)***

**WEEK 7 (Oct. 7):**

**Midterm Exam**

**WEEK 8 (Oct. 14):**

**Film: Monsieur Ibrahim (France) – 94 minutes**  
**Readings: TBA**

**WEEK 9 (Oct. 21)**

**Film: *Le fate ignoranti (His Secret Life)*- 106 minutes**  
Writing about film: *Bordwell pp. 450-453*  
\* *Online discussion post*

**Second Film Response Paper Due**

**WEEK 10 (Oct. 28):**

**Film: Trollhunter (Norway)—103 minutes**  
• Reading: *Bellin, Joshua David, “Introduction: Monsters of our Making” (Bb)*

**WEEK 11 (Nov. 4):**

**Film: The Intouchables (France) –112 minutes**  
**Reading: “Disability in Film” (Bb)**

**WEEK 12 (Nov. 11):**

**NO CLASS: Veterans Day**

**WEEK 13 (Nov. 18):**

**Film: Inside I’m dancing (Ireland) – 104 minutes**  
**Readings: TBA**

**Third Film Response Paper Due**

**WEEK 14 (Nov. 25):**

**Film: Aftermath (Poland/Russia, 107 minutes)**  
• Reading: *Bordwell 308-314; 319-325*

**WEEK 15 (Dec. 2):**

**Film: The Wave (Germany) – 107 minutes**  
**Readings: “Follow the Leader” *The Guardian***  
**Readings: *Bordwell 218-219, 243-247***  
\**Online discussion post*

**WEEK 16 (Dec. 9):**

• **London River (2009, 88 mins.)**  
Director: Rachid Bouchareb (France)

**Research Paper Due via turnitin**

**Final Exam: Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 4pm.**





