# Introduction to Film History

## Prof. Virgil Darelli; Prof. Andrea Chimento

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to provide students with the key historical, linguistic, and theoretical tools to discover and understand international cinema from its origins to the present, and to carry out the analysis of an audio-visual work, both as an aesthetic-cultural product and as an economic and social product.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* recognise and understand the main expressive forms in the history of cinema (Knowledge and understanding);
* understand the developments related to the field of audio-visual arts (Learning ability);
* interpret and analyse a cinematographic text (Applied knowledge and understanding);
* develop communicative and expressive skills in cinematography (Communicative /competence).

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will cover different historical periods, both from a diachronic and a synchronic perspective, with a focus on the most significant production of some Western countries with particular focus on the forms of representation developed within the system of genres and auteur cinema. Furthermore, the history of cinema will be examined through the filter of John Ford's work: the analysis of some representative films will allow to analyse the evolution of classic Hollywood cinema and its aesthetic, cultural, and economic influence on world cinematography.

The course is divided into two modules, referring to the two semesters:

Module I (*Prof. Darelli)*

Deals with the main stages of cinema evolution, from its origins to World War II (30 hours) and includes a single-subject focus on John Ford from silent cinema to the cinema of the Forties (30 hours).

Module 2 (*Prof. Chimento*): outlines the history of cinema from the post-World War II period to nowadays, with a specific single-subject focus on John Ford since the Second World War, analysing in depth the influence of his work on modern and contemporary cinema (30 hours).

***READING LIST***

*Students taking the 6 ECTS-credit exam*

D. Bordwell-K. Thompson, *Storia del cinema.* *Un’introduzione,* edited by D. Bruni – E. Mosconi, McGraw Hill, Milan, 2018 5th ed. (chapters 1-10 + Appendix).

L. Albano (ed.), *John Ford*, Marsilio, Venezia, 2011 (pp. 1-86).

Further material will be made available on Blackboard page and indicated in class.

In addition, students are invited to watch the uncut version of the following films, all available at the UCSC Media Library:

*I tre birbanti* (*3 Bad Men*, 1926)

*Il traditore* (*The Informer*, 1935)

*Ombre rosse* (*Stagecoach*,1939)

*Furore* (*The Grapes of Wrath*, 1940)

*Com’era verde la mia valle* (*How Green Was My Valley*, 1941)

*Students taking the 12 ECTS-credit exam*

D. Bordwell-K. Thompson, *Storia del cinema. Un’introduzione*, a cura di D. Bruni-E. Mosconi, 5e, McGraw Hill, Milan, 2018, (chapters 1-16 e 19-20 + Appendix).

L. Albano (ed.), *John Ford*, Marsilio, Venezia, 2011 (the whole book).

Further material will be made available on Blackboard page and indicated in class.

In addition, students are invited to watch the uncut version of the following films, all available at the UCSC Media Library:

*I tre birbanti* (*3 Bad Men*, 1926)

*Il traditore* (*The Informer*, 1935)

*Ombre rosse* (*Stagecoach*,1939)

*Furore* (*The Grapes of Wrath*, 1940)

*Com’era verde la mia valle* (*How Green Was My Valley*, 1941)

*Sfida infernale* (*My Darling Clementine*, 1946)

*Il massacro di Fort Apache* (*Fort Apache*, 1948)

*Un uomo tranquillo* (*The Quiet Man*, 1952)

*Sentieri selvaggi* (*The Searchers*, 1956)

*L’uomo che uccise Liberty Valance* (*The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, 1962)

*Non-attending students*

In addition to the texts and films indicated above, students must contact the lecturers to arrange a specific syllabus.

*Erasmus students*

Erasmus students are invited to set up an ad hoc syllabus in agreement with the lecturers.

***TEACHING METHOD***

* Frontal lectures, during which audio-visual materials will be shown and analysed
* Remote activities (to be carried out on course texts and materials available on the lecturers’ webpage)
* A supplementary optional seminar (in the second semester, only for students taking 12 ECTS).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

At the end of each semester, only attending students may take a halfway written test (open ended questions) concerning the chapters of the textbook. The mark received on the test shall be integrated with the mark received on the final oral test focusing on the films and the single-subject course text. Starting from the official exam dates, also non-attending students may subdivide the whole syllabus into partial tests (a written one concerning the textbook; an oral one concerning the other part).

Generally, the textbook part represents 70% of the final mark and the part regarding the single-subject section accounts for 30% of the final mark.

Participation in the supplementary seminar – in Semester 2 - will be worth one point for the 12-ECTS students, to be added to the marks achieved in the other tests.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students who cannot attend classes for justified reasons, are expected to contact the lecturers at the beginning of the academic year.

Further information on the enrolment phase, class attendance rules, and the final exam will be made available during the first lectures.

Students are highly recommended to regularly check the lecturers’ webpage and the course Blackboard page so as to be informed about any communications, clarifications, course materials or updates

There are no prerequisites for this course due to its introductory nature. However, the concepts and methods presented in Module 1 will prepare the students for the contents of Module 2; for this reason, the students who choose the 6 ECTS course will have to add Module 1 to their degree curriculum

For any additional clarification, students are invited to send an e-mail to the lecturers at the following addresses:

Prof. Virgil Darelli: [*virgil.darelli@unicatt.it*](mailto:virgil.darelli@unicatt.it)*.*

Prof. Andrea Chimento: [*andrea.chimento@unicatt.it*](mailto:andrea.chimento@unicatt.it)*.*

*Office hours for students*

Prof. Virgil Darelli receives students at the Department of Communication and Performing Arts in via Sant'Agnese 2 (4th floor) or remotely on Teams arranging an appointment by sending an email to [virgil.darelli@unicatt.it](mailto:virgil.darelli@unicatt.it).

Prof. Andrea Chimento receives students at the Department of Communication and Performing Arts in via Sant'Agnese 2 (4th floor) or remotely on Teams arranging an appointment by sending an email to: [andrea.chimento@unicatt.it](mailto:andrea.chimento@unicatt.it)