

## **Subject Outline**

### **Cinema in Australia – The Sydney Film Festival**

#### **Subject Description**

Taking advantage of the concentration and focus provided by the Sydney International Film Festival this subject examines the nature and development of Australian film in an Australasian context. Students will arrive one week before the Festival opens and participate in a series of preparatory classes that will provide necessary historical and sociological background for the subject.

Students will then attend a series of required screenings and forums at the SFF which provide an immediate experience of some of the best of current Australian cinema in feature, short and documentary categories, examples of high quality current New Zealand and Asian cinema, a comprehensive viewing of the work of a featured director or movement and immediate contact with a range of significant Australian and international film industry personnel.

The screenings and forums provide the basis for classes in which the students will examine the nature of specific films, developmental influences and contemporary issues in Australian film making and its relevance and influence in a wider global context.

#### **Subject Objectives**

Students will gain a knowledge of the Australian film industry from inception through to recent developments. They will understand current trends and influences in Australian features, short films and documentaries and gain an insight into approaches of current film makers.

From the Forums students will gain immediate contact with significant film industry personnel and commentators and understand underlying issues that affect current Australian film.

From concentrated experience of a significant film maker or film movement students will analyze characteristics, dominant issues and significance of the director or genre.

#### **Subject Outline**

**Session 1:** 4 hours – lecture, DVD/video illustration

History and development of Australian film:

- promising beginnings
- corporate and distribution arrangements of the second decade of C20th.
- historical themes and hayseed focus of the 20's.
- doldrums of the 30's
- World War 2 – News reels; Ealing plans
- 50's – arrival of television – re-skilling an industry
- 60's – stirrings of a new industry
- 70's – Australian cinema industry revival
- 80's to today

**Session 2:** 3 hours – lecture, DVD/video illustration

Current Australian film industry and the role of Festivals:

- feature film                    } major players
- short film                     } sources of funding
- documentary film         } outlets
- Australian Film Festivals – regional challenges
- Sydney Film Festival in focus:
  - significance and role of the Festival
  - programming considerations
  - audience targets and marketing
  - history and significance of The State Theatre (major venue for Festival)
- brief introduction to film makers and films set for viewing at current SFF

Session 3: 2 hours – lecture, DVD/video illustration

New Zealand film:

- New Zealand film – history and development
- Strength in short film and documentary
- Strategies in maintaining importance as international location for filming
- brief introduction to film makers and films set for viewing at current SFF

Session 4: 3 hours – lecture, DVD/video illustration

- Overview of significant Asian film industries: relationships, typical concerns, and roles
- India
- China
- South Korea
- Japan
- Vietnam
- brief introduction to film makers and films set for viewing at current SFF

Session 5: 3 hours, lectures, DVD/video illustration

Feature Director (or movement) dependent on specific Festival program

- biography/history, influences
- specific concerns and themes; typical compositional strategies
- significant films
- influence and impact
- introduction to specific films set for viewing at current SFF

Allocation to students of individual seminar topics for short papers to be delivered at designated sessions in the ensuing two weeks

Students then attend:

- Opening Night Premiere and Gala Function (black tie) for featured Australian film (State Theatre, Friday evening)
- 4 prescribed films over the Saturday and Sunday of the first weekend

Sessions 6, 7, 8, 9: 4x1hr. designated SFF Forum sessions to be timetabled through the Festival as available and appropriate. These are the sessions where film makers,

commentators and other industry personnel deliver papers or take part in panels that deal with significant issues for both the Australian and international film industries.

Students will during the remainder of the Festival attend screenings of 5 more designated films and be expected to attend 10 other films of their choice as further study and research.

Sessions 10 to 15: 5 sessions of 2 hours each timetabled in the afternoons and evenings where students deliver their seminar papers on allocated topics and discuss issues arising from the screenings and Forums attended .

Session 16: Final 2 hour session as Festival debrief.

### Subject Requirements

Students will be required to have a Day Subscription to the Sydney Film Festival State Theatre program (which will make available to them approximately 80 feature length and 60 short films) and a ticket to the opening Friday evening Premiere and Celebrity Party. Subscription, Premiere Ticket and Function invitation will be supplied as part of the course.

### Subject Assessment

#### One Seminar Paper (approximately 15 minutes)

Students will present a seminar paper on an allocated topic in one of the Sessions 10 to 15 as timetabled. These papers will focus on issues from the designated films and Forums and will be used as the basis for further discussion in class. The Paper will be submitted at the conclusion of the class and assessed independently – both oral presentation and written submission will be taken into account.

Weight: 25%

#### One Written Assignment (2000 word)

This will be produced by each student in response to their choice from a group of set topics arising from issues, films and film makers covered in the Festival. The written assignments will be handed in for assessment after the conclusion of the Festival.

Weight: 50%

#### One Journal.

This will provide an entry on every film seen and forum and class undertaken during the Festival. The entries may be brief but should cover important aspects of the film, forum, class and the student's responses to them. The Journal will be handed in for assessment after the conclusion of the Festival.

Weight: 25%

## **Cinema in Australia – Reference List**

Note: Specific Reference material and links will be provided when the specific SFF program is available.

### Selected General References

[www.afi.org](http://www.afi.org)

[www.dir.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Movies and Film/By Region/Countries/](http://www.dir.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Movies_and_Film/By_Region/Countries/)

[www.filmarchive.org.nz](http://www.filmarchive.org.nz)

[www.findarticles.com](http://www.findarticles.com)

[www.global.factiva.com.ezproxy.uts.edu.au](http://www.global.factiva.com.ezproxy.uts.edu.au)

[www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

[www.koreanfilm.org](http://www.koreanfilm.org)

[www.worldfilm.about.com](http://www.worldfilm.about.com)

Bowyer, Justin ed., *The Cinema of Japan and Korea*, London, Wallflower, 2004

UTS Call No. 791.43095 BOWY

Craven, Ian ed., *Australian Cinema in the 1990's*, London, Portland, 2001

UTS Call No. 791.430994 CRAV

Joshi, Lalit Mohan, *Bollywood: Popular Indian Cinema*, London, Dakini, 2001

UTS Call No. 791.430954 JOSH

Kindem, Gorham ed., *The International Movie Industry*, Carbondale, Sthn Ill UP, 2000

UTS: electronic resource

Lu, Sheldon Hsiao-peng, *Transnational Chinese Cinemas: Identity, Nationhood, Gender*, Honolulu, U. Hawaii Press, 1997

UTS Call No. 791.430951 LUHS

Moran, Albert & O'Regan eds., *The Australian Screen*, Ringwood, Penguin, 1989

UTS Call No. 791.430994 MORA

Murray, Scott ed., *Australian Film 1978-1994*, Melbourne, OUP, 1995

UTS Call No. 791.430994 MURR

Nowell-Smith, Geoffrey ed., *The Oxford History of World Cinema*, Oxford, OUP, 1997

UTS Call No. 791.4309 NOWE

Pike, Andrew & Cooper, Ross, *Australian Film 1900-1977*, Melbourne, OUP, 1981

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Rajadhyasksha, Ashish & Willemen, Paul eds., *Encyclopedia of the Indian Cinema*, London, Fitzroy Dearborn, 1999

UTS Call No. 791.430954 RAJA

Rayner, Jonathan, *Contemporary Australian Cinema: An Introduction*, Manchester, ManUP, 2000

UTS Call No. 791.430994 RAYN

Richie, Donald, *A Hundred Years of Japanese Film: a concise history with a selective guide to videos and DVDs*, Tokyo, Kodansha International, 2001

UTS Call No. 791.430951 RICH

Server, Lee, *Asian Pop Cinema: Bombay to Tokyo*, San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 1999

UTS Call No. 791.43095 SERV

Verhoeven, Deb ed., *Twin Peeks: Australian and New Zealand Feature Films*,  
Melbourne, Damned, 1999

UTS Call No. 791.43099 VERH

Zhang, Yingjin, *Chinese National Cinema*, London, Routledge, 2004

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