

MFCO210: Film and Media Theory

Please note: the following is a shortened example of a course outline as it has been taught in past years. As such it is **indicative only**: the assessment and schedule may change. If you require any further information please contact the department: mfco@otago.ac.nz.

Introduction

This paper will focus primarily on theorizations of the viewing experience of both film and television with an emphasis on popular, commercial media. We will explore the various ways in which film and media theory have considered the moving image in terms of its spectator with an emphasis on the historical development of concepts. The readings and lectures will cover approaches from psychology, formalism, critical theory, realism, apparatus theory & psychoanalysis, phenomenology and media ecology.

Aims of this paper

- To cultivate an understanding of fundamental critical concepts of film and media theory.
- To understand the historical development of film and media theory
- Learn to apply different theoretical approaches to the critical analysis of film and media texts

The coordinator/lecturer's objectives

- Explore the different modalities of film and media theory in their historical contexts
- To convey an understanding of the larger philosophical and critical orientations from which the major film and media theories are derived
- Instruct students to effectively mobilize different theoretical perspectives in their writing

Course Assessment

Concept Test	20%	due: 13 Aug
Critical Essay	20%	due: 7 Sep (noon)
Revised Essay	30%	due: 5 Oct (noon)
Exam	20%	