



University of the Third Age

U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

Series 2 2014

THE HISTORY OF FILM

**Course coordinator: Dr. Paul Ramaeker, Department of Media, Film and
Communication, University of Otago**

Dates: Friday June 6 to July 11

Time: 2:15 to 4:15

Venue: Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke Street, Dunedin North

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 110

Course Fee: \$40.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Marjan Lousberg (473 8224)

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course. If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preferences on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 14 May. A response to your application will be mailed out on May 23rd.

Any questions about this course after May 23rd should be referred to Marjan Lousberg, U3A Dunedin, telephone 473 8224 or on email at marjan.lousberg@gmail.com

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

THE HISTORY OF FILM

We examine the history of film, focusing on some of the most important developments in narrative feature films from the late 19th century to the present. Taken together, the lectures will provide not only an overview of film history, but also an in-depth analysis of cinema in some of its national and international contexts (e.g., American, French, British, and Australian cinemas). We will bring together aesthetic, social, economic, political, and technological approaches to film history, and look at the complex interactions between them that have shaped one of the most important mediums of the 20th and 21st centuries. **Note:** A list of films will be provided as “recommended viewing” for each lecture. These are in no way required, but viewing at least one of these will enrich your experience of the lecture in question.

6 June Silent Cinema – Presenter Dr Paul Ramaeker

This lecture will examine cinema from its birth in the 1890s, through the development of early film form, and the rise of feature filmmaking in the ‘10s and ‘20s. We will focus on film in the United States, but also discuss cinema in France, Italy, England, Russia, and Germany. In just a few decades, film went from a technological novelty to a dominant form of popular entertainment, and an incredibly sophisticated mode of visual storytelling.

13 June Classical Hollywood Cinema - Presenter Dr Paul Ramaeker

By the 1920s, the Hollywood film industry was fully developed, and dominated the international market. From the 1920s through the 1960s, what scholars have referred to as “the classical Hollywood cinema” comprised a mature industry and a remarkably stable, robust, and influential paradigm of film storytelling that in many respects persists to the present day. This lecture will examine Hollywood from the 1930s to the 1960s, looking at sociopolitical factors, technological developments, economic strategies, studios, stars, genres, and directors.

20 June French Cinema – Presenter Sally Milner

This presentation will explore a movement in French cinematic history between 1959 and 1968, known as the French New Wave. We will look at the ways New Wave films responded stylistically and thematically to a quickly changing world. Key issues will include: Mobility and the new youth culture; Looking to Hollywood; Modernisation and decolonisation; Women in front of and behind the camera.

27 June British Cinema – Presenter Sally Milner

In this session we study examples of British cinema from 1945 to recent times. While there are problems in speaking of a ‘national cinema,’ we take as our focus here the ways British filmmaking has responded to cultural transformations and expressions of national identity. Some key topics are: ‘Going to the pictures,’ a national pastime; How to speak of the past; Empire, family, race and class.

4 July Australian Cinema – Presenter Dr Brett Nicholls

This lecture will explore the development of Australian national cinema in the 1970s. The 1970s are a watershed moment in Australia's ongoing search for a cultural sense of itself. We will focus on how cinema was seen at the time as a powerful vehicle for expressing an Australian national identity that was independent from Britain. We will consider how this independence was expressed, what type of characters were celebrated, and we will also consider the tensions that emerged within Australia's cultural imaginary at that time.

11 July Contemporary Cinema - Presenter Dr Paul Ramaeker

Since the 1960s, cinema around the world has experienced a series of seismic changes affecting its every aspect, from its economic and technological bases, to its responses to world history and its forms of aesthetic expression. What are some of these changes, and why did they occur? How have they affected the way that films are made and seen? This lecture will examine cinema of the 1970s and since, concentrating on Hollywood (but in a global context). We will look at how cinema today- and as it looks to the future- is the product of its history.