
SUBJECT DESCRIPTION**50916 Special Topic in Media Arts**

Course Name:	Graduate Program in Media Arts and Production
Level:	400
Number of Credit points:	8
Prerequisites:	None
Grading:	Graded

HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION

This subject offers an in-depth study of one aspect of screen production. In any given semester the focus will be one of the following: a genre, a particular period of cinema, a visual approach, a television genre, recent cinema, a director's style, issues for the contemporary producer, cinematography, editing, production design for cinema, mythic themes, poetics, issues in contemporary narrative cinema or new media, digital special effects or another craft aspect of media production. Through screenings, readings and seminar presentations students will develop their skills in the critical analysis of film and video and new media. The subject will encourage students to develop their own technical, critical and creative skills in media production through individual research and a series of individual creative exercises which will be workshopped in the seminar.

CONTRIBUTION TO GRADUATE PROFILE

Students completing this subject:

- Have developed advanced professional knowledge and professional skills in media production.
- Have enhanced their knowledge of media cultures and industries.
- Are able to conceptualise and research an aspect of media production at an advanced level.
- Have developed their conceptual skills and critical thinking in relationship to the relevant area of media production.
- Have had the opportunity to develop their own innovative and creative approach to media production work.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this subject students are expected to be able to:

- a) Demonstrate specialised knowledge in one aspect of screen production
- b) Demonstrate increased knowledge of the history and theory of techniques, poetics, and aesthetics of screen culture.
- c) Demonstrate their conceptual skills and critical thinking in relation to film and video and new media production.
- d) Provide evidence of independent research into one aspect of media production at an advanced level.
- e) Demonstrate the development of professional and creative skills through in depth study of an aspect of media production.

TEACHING AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

The subject will be conducted as weekly seminars throughout the semester. There will be lectures, seminar discussions, screenings and case presentations. Students will present seminar papers and workshop their individual research and creative exercises in the seminar.

CONTENT

The content of the subject will vary according to the particular area of screen production that is the focus of the particular semester.

In any given semester the focus will be one of the following:

a genre, a particular period of cinema, a visual approach, a television genre, recent cinema, a director's style, issues for the contemporary producer, cinematography, editing, production design for cinema, mythic themes, poetics, issues in contemporary narrative cinema or new media, digital special effects or another craft aspect of media production.

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be required to successfully complete two assessment items

Assessment item 1: In class seminar presentation**Objectives:** a, b, c, d**Value:** 30%**Due:** As scheduled throughout the semester**Task:** Students choose a particular topic for research based on seminar material. This will form the basis of a short class presentation which would involve screening examples where relevant and making links to the relevant readings.**Assessment Criteria:**

Demonstrated ability to engage with the subject under study and relating it to specific films and the relevant readings. Students must demonstrate skills in critical analysis.

Assessment item 2. Individual Research Project / Essay (3000 word or equivalent)**Objectives:** a, b, c, d, e**Value:** 70%**Due:** Week 13**Task:** A 3000 word essay (or equivalent) in which students undertake individual research in a particular aspect of the seminar content. In consultation with the lecturer, students are encouraged to interpret this requirement creatively.**Assessment Criteria:**

Demonstrated capacity to undertake original research at an advanced level. Proven capacity to critically evaluate research relating it to issues discussed in the seminar and in the relevant literature. Quality of the written essay or equivalent report.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

To pass this subject students must submit all assessment items and reach a satisfactory level in each assessment item. Students are required to attend 80% of scheduled classes.

TEXTS AND REFERENCES

A subject reader will be provided and a detailed bibliography as relevant to the particular area of study.