



Communication Studies (CMNS) 425

Film and Genre (Revision 3)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** [↗](#) for the current revision **✕**

Delivery mode: **Individualized study online** [↗](#) or **Grouped study** [↗](#) with **Video component** [↗](#) (Overseas students, please contact the University Library before registering in a course that has an audio/visual component)

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites: None. **CMNS 301** and **CMNS 302** are recommended.

Precluded: None

Challenge: CMNS 425 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty: **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences** [↗](#)

Notes:

Students registering in grouped study, or grouped study international mode are advised that there may be some differences in the evaluation and course materials information indicated below. To obtain the most up-to-date information, contact the Faculty of Business Call Centre at 1-800-468-6531

Overview

Film and Genre looks at the historical, economic, political and social factors that influence filmmaking, particularly genre films. The course explores the possibilities and the limitations of genres, and looks at some of the criticism that has dealt with the area over the years. Two of the primary questions that recur throughout the course are, “What constitutes a film genre?” and “How do we identify genres, and how does this identification influence what we see on the screen?” The course concludes by examining specific genres that illustrate the complex issues that arise when we look at so-called escapist films.

Outline

- Unit 1: The Usefulness of Genre
- Unit 2: Genre History and Literary Precedents
Note: A short paper is due after Unit 2.
- Unit 3: The Effects of Economics and Social Change on Genre
- Unit 4: Genre Development and Instability
Note: A short paper is due after Unit 2.



Choose two units from Units 5 through 8

- Unit 5: The Role of the Individual Artist in Genres
Note: A major essay is due after completion of Unit 5.
- Unit 6: International Variations in Genre
- Unit 7: Transcendence and Failure: Nongenre and Cult Films
- Unit 8: Against Grains: Experimental and Cross-genre Films
Note: A major essay is due after the eighth completed unit.

Choose two units from Units 9 through 12

- Unit 9: Possibilities and Parameters in Science Fiction
- Unit 10: Possibilities and Parameters in Mystery/Suspense
- Unit 11: Possibilities and Parameters in Horror
- Unit 12: Possibilities and Parameters in Comedy
Note: A major essay is due after the eighth completed unit.

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for CMNS 425, you must complete all of the assignments, achieve a minimum mark of 50 percent on assignment number three, and obtain a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)** . There is no final examination for this course. The weighting of the composite mark is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Short Paper (due after Unit 2)	20%
Major Essay (due after fifth completed unit)	35%
Major Essay (due after eighth completed unit)	45%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

Materials

Grant, Barry K., ed. *Film Genre Reader IV*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2012.  (Print)

Other Materials

Other than the videos, which students will choose for themselves, the rest of the course materials are online, including additional readings and unit study guides.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#)  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To [receive credit](#)  for the CMNS 425 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  on the examination.





Activity	Weight
Part I: Take home essay exam	40%
Part II: Online exam	60%

Activity	Weight
Total	100%



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** 
