

Cinema Studies Senior Colloquium

School of Film and Media Studies

Purchase College, State University of New York

CIN4890, in-person section CRN: 42332, online section CRN: 48463

Fall 2021, Thursdays, 12:30 PM - 2:10 PM

Center for Media, Film, and Theatre, CMFT0065 and via Zoom

Instructor: Prof. Joel Neville Anderson

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Office: Music Building, MUS0053

Office Hours: schedule a time here: <https://calendly.com/joelnanderson/office-hours>

Zoom link for online section:



Course Description:

The Cinema Studies Senior Colloquium provides structure, support, and advice as you begin or complete your senior project. Course assignments are designed to help you conceive the parameters of your topic and develop a strong research question. Senior Colloquium is also meant to provide a space for refining ideas, sharing resources with one another, and make progress on your project every week. A broader aim of the class is to share ideas about conducting research, thinking critically and historically about film, and about the writing process in general. Weekly classes will consist of workshops, presentations, discussion, group work, guest speakers, and occasionally individual research/writing time.

Course Goals/Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Will have prepared the materials (proposal, literature review, bibliography, possibly initial draft) necessary for completing a (35-40-page, 25 source) thesis paper.
2. Have developed a familiarity with research methods, writings skills, and presentation practices.
3. Have been given the opportunity to talk about their ideas and process in an encouraging atmosphere.

Reading and Viewing Assignments (and Writing Advice/Resource Sharing):

Readings will be posted on Moodle as PDFs. Films/videos assigned for viewing outside class will be available via online streaming (using the library website or other platforms freely accessible to students), as specified by the instructor. (Whatever devices you choose to use to watch films/videos outside of class, I encourage you to do so in an environment free of distractions so you may concentrate on the creators' work.) *We will also collect "Writing Advice/*

Resource Sharing” featuring essays, links, and other materials you've all found helpful in your writing process.

Grading:

Participation: 20% of final grade

Research Proposal (1 page): 10%

Annotation Assignment: 10%

Bibliography (10 sources, 3 annotated): 15%

Literature Review (5 pages): 15%

In-Class Presentation: 15%

Final Research Portfolio (bibliography, revised literature review, 2 page introduction, second semester work plan): 15%

Senior Project I Progress Sheet

In addition to the graded items above, you are required to meet with your Senior Project advisor to discuss your research proposal, literature review, and final research portfolio. Every time you submit these items for grading in this class, you will also submit them to your advisor. Your advisor will approve your progress by signing off your progress sheet for each of the three items above. (Each student will have a unique access link to their Progress Sheet, shared by them, their Senior Project advisor, and the Senior Colloquium instructor.)

Policies and Guidelines:

- **Respecting Yourself and Others:** You are expected to treat others in the class with respect. This means listening to their words and choosing your own with care. Students violating this policy will be dismissed from class.
- **Preparation and Participation:** The equivalent of approximately two to three hours of screening material, in addition to one to two articles or book chapters will be assigned each week for students to watch and read outside class. Students are expected to review the material in detail, and come prepared to participate in discussion. Your thoughts are valuable to me and your fellow students. Students are responsible for all assignments, even if they are absent, unless otherwise discussed.
- **Attendance:** Your attendance at each class is mandatory. Be sure to sign the attendance sheet. A single absence will be excused without question, however repeated absences will result in a lowered letter grade: 2 will result in a B as a maximum possible grade, 3 in a C, and 4 absences will result in automatic failure of the course. Arriving to class after the start time on two occasions will be recorded as one absence. Arriving more than 20 minutes after the start time will be considered an absence. Excusing absences will require consultation with the instructor and may require documentation, such as a doctor’s note following a medical visit. If you do miss class, please also check with the instructor or your peers to catch up on assignments and handouts—this will be your responsibility.
- **Breaks:** There will generally be a short break during class. Returning after the class resumes will count as a late arrival. Please only leave the class outside of this set break time in case of emergencies. It is not necessary to ask for the instructor’s permission, but please return within

five minutes, and do not leave more than once. Inform the instructor at the start of the semester if you require an accommodation.

- Email Correspondence: Please check your university email regularly for announcements and updates to the syllabus and assignments.
- Moodle: Moodle will be an important resource for this class, and students should check it regularly for announcements.
- Instructor Delay: In rare instances, the instructor may be delayed arriving to class due to an emergency. If the instructor has not arrived by the time class is scheduled to start, students must wait a minimum of thirty minutes for the instructor's arrival before leaving. In the event that the instructor will miss class entirely, students will be contacted in advance via email or a sign will be posted at the classroom.
- Food and Drinks: The Center for Media, Film, and Theatre facilities have strict rules regarding food and drink due to the sensitivity of technology. You may eat a snack outside the building during the break, though please note there will not be time to run and purchase a snack outside the classroom building during break. Please prepare accordingly. Students violating this policy will be dismissed from class.
- Classroom Technology: Please bring a notebook and pen or pencil to class. Laptops, tablets, and mobile phones are not to be used once class has begun. Laptops or tablets may be used during class presentations.
- Notes on Zoom Usage in Case of Virtual Sessions:
 - Remain engaged during lectures and discussions conducted via the Zoom video chat platform, and keep your webcam on as much as your situation permits.
 - When attending class via Zoom, please do your best to contribute to a positive and accepting learning environment. As much as possible, create a dedicated space for class time, with ample light. Find a comfortable position and physical posture, feel free to use a virtual background, and use your own best judgment regarding attire, etc.
 - Be prepared to take notes, whether using a desktop app or a notebook and pen/pencil.
 - Do not become distracted by other desktop windows or electronic devices. Please keep mobile phones in a separate location or ensure they are turned off.
 - Please adjust how your name displays on the Zoom interface to reflect how you would like to be addressed (including for example your preferred pronouns).
 - Keep track of your Zoom meeting links and passwords. It's helpful to store links in a calendar application with each class or meeting entered into the correct day/time.
 - If you encounter any issues with internet connectivity or computer performance, please quit any unnecessary applications or temporarily mute your webcam.
 - Please contact the instructor if you have any issues regarding access to the internet or a reliable computer in order to find a solution in coordination with Campus Technology Services (CTS): <https://www.purchase.edu/offices/cts/>
 - If any difficulties arise, don't hesitate to inform the instructor in order to discuss potential accommodations. We'll figure it out together.

Academic Integrity Policy:

The Purchase College academic integrity policy explicitly forbids cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another person and the representation of them as one's own original work. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the definition of plagiarism and the acceptable methods of attribution. These are serious matters and you need to be aware of what is and is not permissible. See <https://www.purchase.edu/offices/community-standards/student-code-of-conduct/section-a-academic-integrity/index.php> and related links for more information.

Tutoring Support:

All students at Purchase College can take advantage of tutoring services in the Learning Center. These are free peer-to-peer tutoring sessions in a variety of subjects and in writing across the disciplines. I encourage you to take advantage of this service to help you excel in this class, as well as your other courses. Please visit the Learning Center website for more information: <https://www.purchase.edu/offices/learning-center/>.

Community Health During COVID-19:

To ensure that each of us has a healthy and safe learning experience, all students are required to remain informed and follow Purchase College Policy and/or any departmental, local, state, or federal laws, rules, or regulations for attending classes on campus and in a remote learning environment. Within courses that involve in-person contact, all students, faculty members, staff, and visitors are required to adhere to the expectations outlined on the College's COVID-19 website (<https://www.purchase.edu/covid-19-updates-and-plans/>). Failure to comply with requirements (e.g. wearing masks, maintaining social distancing where applicable) will result in the request to leave the classroom for that in-person class session. Students may also be referred to the Office of Community Standards (<https://www.purchase.edu/offices/community-standards/>). For the health of our entire community, please be sure to answer the daily health screening questionnaire thoroughly. Do not enter the conservatory/school building if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. Contact your faculty if you need to miss class because of COVID-19 symptoms. The conservatory/school will address on a case by case basis student absences due to COVID-19 symptoms, while awaiting test results, or during quarantine.

Accessibility:

It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk as soon as possible about the need for any modifications. The Office of Disability Resources collaborates directly with students who identify documented disabilities to create accommodation plans, including testing accommodations, in order for students to access course content and validly demonstrate learning. For those students who may require accommodations, please call or email the Office of Disability Resources, (914) 251-6035, odr@purchase.edu, www.purchase.edu/odr.

Counseling:

Help is available at the Counseling Center on campus for difficulties with emotional wellbeing and psychological functioning. If distress is interfering in relationships, academics, work, or daily life, confidential support can be had right away. Contact the Counseling Center at (914) 251-6390 or COU.counseling.center@purchase.edu on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM. The Counseling Center's website lists after hours emergency resources for mental health crises, sexual assault or interpersonal violence emergencies (Campus Advocacy Services), self-help, and additional coping resources. <https://www.purchase.edu/counseling-center>.

Religious Accommodations:

If you require academic accommodations for a religious observance, please speak with me as soon as possible to consider a reasonable modification.

Course Schedule:

(Note: all readings/screenings should be completed *before* the class for which they are assigned)

Week 1 (September 2): Course Overview, Project Advisor Assignments, & Writing Inspirations

Week 2 (September 9): Identifying & Narrowing a Topic

- Read from "Writing Advice/Resource Sharing" collection on Moodle: Hua Hsu, "A Guide to Thesis-Writing and a Guide to Life"; Zadie Smith, "10 Rules of Writing."
- Looking at past Senior Projects
- From general idea/interest to topic
- Research proposal worksheets and Progress Sheets

Week 3 (September 16): Methods and Approaches

- *One - page research proposal due*
- Introduction to research methods and approaches
- Identifying scholarly sources

Week 4 (September 23): Research Proposal Meetings

- 10 minute one-on-one meetings to go over research proposal, new ideas, next steps.

Week 5 (September 30): Bibliographies & Annotations

- Reading and working with scholarly sources, distilling arguments.
- Writing summative and critical annotations

Week 6 (October 7): Writing a Literature Review

- What's a literature review? Why is it necessary? How do I write it?
- Summarizing and synthesizing
- Literature review assignment explained

Week 7 (October 14): Research Retreat

- Independent work during class time to build bibliography, read, and ask questions.
- *Annotation assignment due*

Week 8 (October 21): Meetings Preparing for Literature Review

- 10 minute meetings to review preparation for Literature Review.

Recommended: “Cinema Studies Field Notes” Guest Visitor on Curation: K. F. Watanabe (Japan Society Film Program, Film at Lincoln Center) Invitation to join session of New Waves of East Asian Cinema course, October 26, 6:30 PM, CMFT 0065 (details circulated via email)

Week 9 (October 28): Show & Tell

- Mini, very low-pressure presentations: bring an image, film scene, concept, or quotation from a source in your bibliography and share it with (and explain it to) the class.
- *Bibliography assignment due (10 sources, 3 new annotations)*

Week 10 (November 4): Thinking & Re-thinking a Topic, & “Cinema Studies Field Notes” Guest Visitor on Research: Prof. Gabriela Freitas (Universidade de Brasília)

- How to think with an object/phenomenon
- Defining stakes (Why are you doing this? Why do WE do this?)
- Organization and structure

Week 11 (November 11): Developing & Refining a Thesis Statement

- The core of your project: the argument or question
- *Literature review due*

Week 12 (November 18): One-on-One Meetings

- Literature review returned and discussed
- Questions, ideas about next steps
- Ready for presentation

Week 13 (November 25): Autumn Recess—NO CLASS

Week 14 (December 2): Presentations

- *In-class Senior Project presentations to Cinema Studies faculty*

Week 15 (December 9): Presentations (continued)

- *In-class Senior Project presentations to Cinema Studies faculty (continued)*
- *Submit research portfolios*

Week 16 (December 16): TBD

- Potential wrap-up event