



UK-US CINEMA

Master in English and American Language, Literature and History
Faculty of Liberal Arts

Course information

Master year 1 24 HOURS
Spring Semester 5 ECTS
Seminars (S)
Professor: Vincent Jaunas (PhD. Bordeaux Montaigne)

Course description

American Science Fiction Film

This course offers an introduction to American Science Fiction films. Adopting a diachronic approach, we will explore the depth and variety of this genre, from the Red Scare B movies of the 1950s to contemporary high-budget *Auteur* films. This diachronic approach will enable us to take a look at how, throughout its history, Science Fiction cinema has depicted potential futures so as to reflect the country's rapid scientific, technological and socioeconomic evolutions throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, as well as to ponder upon what these evolutions entail for the future of the USA and of our species, or how they have changed the perception of our place in the universe.

In addition to offering an overview of the main recurring themes of the genre – dystopian futures, transhumanism and posthumanism, encounters with other intelligent lifeforms –, this course will also pay particular attention to the specifically audiovisual issues raised by filmic Science Fiction, from the challenges of representing alien spaces and beings to the problems posed by the anthropocentric constraints of cinema, to the filmic representation of the existential dread caused by an image-saturated world in which the borders between reality and virtuality collapse. This course also aims at perfecting the students' skills in film analysis.

Filmographie / Filmography

Invasion of the Body Snatchers, Don Siegel, 1956

2001: A Space Odyssey, Stanley Kubrick, 1968

Soylent Green, Richard Fleisher, 1973

Blade Runner, Ridley Scott, 1982

ExistenZ, David Cronenberg, 1999

Ex Machina, Alex Garland, 2015

Arrival, Denis Villeneuve, 2016

Course Validation : continuous assessment: an oral presentation (50%) on one of the films from the filmography below and an academic essay (50%) on another Science Fiction film of your choosing.