

**La Trobe University
Cinema Studies**

**Issues and Methods CST41IAM/51 IAM
Subject Guide**



Subject Guide

General Information:

Lecturer: Dr Gabrielle Murray
Room 326
Ph: 9479 –2512
Email: Gabrielle.Murray@latrobe.edu.au

Time and Venue: Thursday 5-8pm, Hu2 Room 201.

Student Consultations: Thursday 3-4, Room 326.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this subject is to introduce honours and postgraduate students to disciplinary issues and research methods in Cinema Studies. This subject is compulsory for all Cinema Studies Honours and postgraduate coursework students. The subject is open to all new postgraduate research students in the first semester of their enrolment in the PhD or the MA.

Students will learn research skills by undertaking a research project. Students will nominate a research topic in the first week, undertake preliminary library research, develop their topic into a significant research question, improve database and internet research skills, produce an annotated bibliographical essay, write a review essay, and deliver a seminar on their research project. Students will improve their citation and annotation skills and consider ethical questions.

Generic Skills

The following generic skills will be developed: time management skills; effective communication in writing and speech, the ability to work independently; the ability to develop coherent arguments and evaluate arguments; the ability to locate information relevant to individual research topics; the ability to formulate and apply appropriate work and research methods; the ability to perform critical analysis and synthesis; the ability to express ideas in a public forum; the ability to evaluate evidence; the ability to formulate and apply appropriate research methods, the ability to plan and realize feasible research projects within given constraints.

Subject Requirements and Assessment Procedures

Students will develop research skills and an understanding of contemporary issues by participating in three strands: Disciplinary Issues, Research Methods and Seminar Presentation:

Disciplinary Issues:

- students will learn to identify the key elements of a good argument in the discipline of cinema studies by close analysis in class of one article over three or four sessions. Students will be required to identify two influential articles which have shaped the discipline's approach to the broad topic they are researching, eg, genre studies, auteur criticism, spectatorship theory, ideology, film history, national cinemas, industry analysis.

Assessment of this strand will be a Review Essay of 2000 words worth 40%. Due Date: 4pm Friday 15th May (2 copies with Cover sheet).

Research Methods:

- students will learn to become independent researchers by choosing a topic, developing a good research question from that topic, and exploring the significance of that topic/question in terms of the research problems recognised within the discipline of cinema studies. Students will develop skills in finding and critically evaluating authoritative articles on their research question. In practical terms, students will develop competence in: devising a research plan; searching catalogues and databases; accessing relevant primary and secondary resources; identifying ethical issues in research; producing an annotated bibliographic essay; using the MLA citation style.

Assessment of this strand will be a 3000 word bibliographic research essay in MLA style worth 50%. Due Date: 4pm Friday 5th June (2 copies with Cover sheet).

Seminar Presentation:

- **Students will present a short annotated bibliography on their topic (5 key references in MLA style) on Thursday 26th March 2006.** These bibliographies will be copied and handed out to all students for discussion of research questions and problems arising from each topic.
- Each student will present a 20 minute seminar paper plus 10 minutes of visual material on their topic to the class. All students will participate in chairing a seminar session, evaluating the presentations and providing critical feedback to other students. **Worth 10%. Seminar dates to be allocated on Thursday 26th March.**

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment: All three assignments must be completed to pass the subject.

All written assignments will be double-marked: **Hand in two copies** with A4 stamped, self-addressed envelope for return. Use 4th Year cover sheet.

One 2000 word review essay: 40% **Due : 4pm Friday 15th May**

Seminar presentation: 10% **Week 11: 18th, 19th, 20, 21stMay; Week 12-28th May.**

One 3000 word bibliographic essay: 50% **Due: 4pm Friday 5th June**

Review Essay: Due 4pm Friday 15th May. Hand in 2 copies with cover sheets to the Cinema Studies Essay box.

You are required to write a 2000 word critical analysis of two influential academic book chapters or refereed articles relevant to your research topic. Do some research and find articles or book chapters that are most often cited by other writers on your topic. Alternatively, choose an article or book which offers a relevant or influential theoretical approach to your topic. Consult with your thesis supervisor and the lecturer before you make a final choice.

The assignment requires you to complete the following four steps (see *The Craft of Research* for examples of each step):

1. You are expected to identify the main question or problem/issue/debate in film history, theory or criticism addressed by each article and give an account of how the writers organise and develop the major claims of their arguments. How do their claims differ?
2. You must identify and summarise the main reasons for making these claims, and evaluate the use of evidence from primary and secondary sources.
3. You must say whether or not the writers qualify their claims by anticipating readers' objections.
4. You must identify the warrant (or underlying principle) which makes the evidence *relevant* to the argument in each article.

At the beginning of your review give your reasons for choosing these particular articles -- give some evidence of how they have been influential in the discipline of Cinema Studies by using the Citation Index in the library. Which argument do you find most convincing and why? As well as discussing the conclusion(s) reached by the writers, you must make connections between the selected articles and current debates in cinema studies. **Your review essay will be assessed according to how well it performs the above tasks.**

Bibliographic research essay: Due 4pm Friday 5th June. Hand in two copies with cover sheets to the Cinema Studies Essay Box.

******* Thursday 26th March bring to class 5 annotated references in MLA style.**

Your bibliographic essay is a cumulative project, not one you can leave until the last moment. You need to begin your research in the first week of class.

Recommended stages:

- define a research topic with your supervisor and lecturer;
- undertake preliminary library research to refine your topic and produce a viable research question; **YOU HAVE THREE WEEKS** to do preliminary research on your topic in March. **Bring five annotations to class on 26th March and identify problems with your topic and problems with research skills.**
- conduct a thorough search of the library catalogues, databases and serials indexes to develop your bibliography; use other libraries and the interlibrary loan system to find material not available at La Trobe; include audio-visual material and academic journals published on the internet; this work should commence in earnest after **ESSENTIAL LIBRARY SESSION ON Thursday 12th March.**
- compile your working bibliography in MLA citation style; learn to scan and summarise the main aim and central argument of each reference; write 40-50 word annotations for each reference.
- decide whether your bibliography will be organised in different categories or simply alphabetically; within each category references must be in alphabetical order by author's surname.
- compile your bibliography and annotations; your annotations should indicate the scope, approach and key argument of each reference;
- consider whether you need to do further research to extend your range of references; consult your thesis supervisor or the lecturer; aim for 40 - 50 references; annotations should be 40-50 words each;
- check carefully to see that your bibliography conforms precisely to the MLA style guide; marks will be deducted for each error;
- write an account (approx. 1500 words) of how your research topic evolved as a result of the research process; include the challenges and obstacles you encountered in using libraries, databases, search terms, etc, and how you dealt with them; explain how you knew that your research process was complete, i.e., that there were no other relevant references to be found.

Seminar Presentation:

Attendance at seminars is a requirement of this course. This assignment aims to develop your ability to give a succinct and engaging account of your research, and to respond intelligently and constructively to other people's research.

A one-page **bibliography with 5 annotations** on your topic should be circulated to the class on Thursday 26th March. **Nominate one key article** for all students to read before your seminar. Provide a copy to the lecturer by **Thursday 30th April. These articles will be scanned and emailed to students.**

Students will give a 20 minute formal presentation based on their research topic, plus 10 minutes of audiovisual material. This will be followed by responses and questions from the whole group. Class members will be allocated roles in each seminar.

You are required to use audio-visual material, including one or more relevant video clips, as part of your presentation. The library and the Cinema Studies department have collections of video/laser discs which can be booked for your presentation.

All students will be assigned the task of chairing a session, responding to the papers, asking questions, offering constructive criticism and evaluating presentations.

Presentation Guidelines:[N.B. Read Program Guide: Standard Procedures]

Use 4th year cover sheet and submit **two double-spaced, typed copies with margins for comments**. All postgraduate written work is assessed by two markers. If there is 10 marks or more difference between the two, the paper goes to a 3rd marker. The average of the highest two marks is awarded.

Cinema Studies students are required to use the MLA citation style. Obtain a copy of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* before you begin your research. There is a copy in the library in the reference section.

Under exceptional circumstances extensions will be granted **before the due date** but not after. You will have to apply to the Honours Co-ordinator or for special consideration for all extensions after the due date. Penalties apply for late submissions: 10% will be deducted for each week or part thereof after the due date.

Papers should be as close as possible to the required word length.

If you have difficulty with any aspect of writing essays, it is in your interests to contact the Language and Academic Skills Subject on extn. 2788 for information about services offered to students.

Cinema Studies Program Guide: Standard Procedures

1. Submission of Assignments

- All assignments should be placed in the 'essay box' outside the Cinema Studies Office, Hu2, Room 224. Submissions will be dated and recorded and given to your Lecturer/Tutor for marking. Assignments may be posted to: Cinema Studies Program, The Essay Box, La Trobe University, 3086, however, they must include a cover sheet.
- All assignments must have an appropriate cover sheet stapled to the front of all assignments. Cover sheets can be downloaded from the following web site www.latrobe.edu.au/cinema 'Student Resources', or can be found in the Cinema Studies corridor in the pigeon holes after the office.

- MLA style must be used to cite your sources in all written assignments. Correct use of MLA style will help you avoid plagiarism. See below: 7. Quick Guide to MLA Style.
- To understand and avoid PLAGIARISM the following must be read before submitting assignments.
 - ❖ The Academic Misconduct Policy found at: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/policies>
 - ❖ Statute 16 found at: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/legalservices/statutes.html>
 - ❖ Regulation 16.2 found at: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/legalservices/regulations.html>
- Assignments should NOT be submitted in a plastic folder or enclosed in an envelope (plastic folders can be used to enclose disks or CDs, stapled to back of assignment).
- Assignments will be given back to students in class in the first instance, however, final assignments must have a self-addressed, stamped envelope (A5/A4 size) stapled to the back, so that they can be returned by post. Lecturers/Tutors will keep final assignments (if an envelope is not supplied) until the following semester (2nd week), and after this time they will be shredded.
- Students are required to keep an identical copy of all work submitted.
- Essay writing conventions vary, however, for a standard guide to writing academic essays consult the Humanities Academic Skills Subject's webpage for workshops and PDF downloads on 'Writing Better Essays'. <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/humanities/supportSubjects/hasu.html>

2. **Extensions of Assignment Deadlines**

If you wish to submit work after the deadline, you must fill out an extension form and give it to your Lecturer/Tutor **before the due date of the assignment**. Extension forms can be collected from the pigeonholes outside Room 224, or are available on the web. It is your responsibility to get your Lecturer/Tutor to sign the extension form. The signed form should be attached to the assignment when it is submitted.

3. **Late Submission Policy**

At the discretion of the Lecturer/Tutor, grading penalties may be made on late assignments, which do not have a signed extension form. The penalties are:

- ❖ 2% per working day for late assignments with no extension form
- ❖ 1 week late 10% off
- ❖ 2 weeks late 20% off

In normal circumstances, assignments will not be accepted more than two weeks after the due date.

4. **Assessment of Assignments**

A	80% or more	Excellent work: Well researched, persuasively argued, original insights, excellent use of citation style, well presented.
B	70-79%	Good to very good work: Some evidence of research, clearly argued, consistent use of citation style, may indicate potential for Honours.
C	60-69%	Competent work: Fulfils the basic requirements of research, argument and presentation. Average standard for B.A. work.
D	50-59%	Pass: Fulfils some of the basic requirements but may have serious problems of length, presentation or argument.
N	49 or less	Fail Grade: Work is of an extremely poor standard.

5. Appeals Procedure

If you wish to appeal an assessment mark, you may request a second marker.

1. The student should provide:
 - (a) a written appeal giving name, student number, Subject name, year level, tutor or lecturer's name, the proportion of requirements for the Subject satisfied by this piece of work, and the essay topic or assignment;
 - (b) the piece of work as returned by the first marker, including all comments;
 - (c) a clean copy of the piece of work, without any marks of assessment.
2. These should be given to the First-year Co-ordinator (if a first year Subject) or the Program Co-ordinator (for second or third year Subjects), who will notify the lecturer or tutor of the appeal and pass on the clean copy to a second assessor.
3. The final mark will be arrived at after consultation between the markers and the Subject Co-ordinator.
4. If the appeal is against a mark given by the Subject Co-ordinator, the Program Co-ordinator will appoint a deputy to conduct the appeal procedure.
5. The student will be notified of the result of the appeal within three weeks.
6. Any further appeals should be addressed to the Head, School of Communication, Arts and Critical Enquiry.

6. Special Consideration

If you need to apply for Special Consideration, the forms are available at the Student Centre, David Myers Building, level 2. Special Consideration can be used

when extra time is required to finalise assignments and it will be noted on your record.

To apply for Special Consideration, you should supply Dr's Certificates or other evidence to back up your claim. If you do not have Dr's Certificates, you can still apply for Special Consideration. Special Consideration can be granted many reasons i.e. Illness, circumstances beyond your control i.e. death in the family.

It is advisable to discuss any problems you may be having with your Lecturer/Tutor so that they are aware of the situation.

Essential Texts:

Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research. 2nd Ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003.

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5th ed. New York: MLA, 1999.

There is a copy of The Craft of Research on Reserve at the library. There are also numerous earlier editions in the general collection. The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers is for reference use only in the library. [Ref. Section 808.02 M6892m 1999 Library Use only] Both of these books are currently available to purchase from the Bookshop.

Weekly Outline

Week 1

Thursday 5th March

Introduction: Research Topics and Research Questions.

By the end of this session all students should have a research topic.
Class Exercise: Narrow your topic and develop a good research question. Identify what makes it a significant problem within the discipline of Cinema Studies.

Compulsory Class Reading

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. "From Topics to Questions." The Craft of Research. 2nd Ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. 37-55.

Week 2

Thursday 12th March

Library Research Skills

NB LIBRARY RESEARCH SKILLS SESSION 5-6.30PM

Meet at Enquiries Desk in the library before 5pm. This is an essential class for all students. You will not be able to complete your first assignment without the skills taught in this training session. The class will take place in Training Room 2B (near the AV section) and will be taken by Ann Copeland, the Cinema Studies librarian.

Compulsory Class Reading:

- Gibaldi, Joseph. "Research and Writing." MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5th edn. New York: MLA, 1999. 5-34.

Week 3

Thursday 19th March

Preliminary Research Exercise

All students. NO Formal Class.

All students to complete the following before Thursday 26th March.

All students must also bring to the next class an example of their writing. It should be approximately one page and use a variety of references.

Preliminary library research into your research topic.

Search the Library Catalogue: subject/author/title/keyword.

Search the Reference collection and online databases.

Find useful dictionaries and companions or guides.

Check Bibliographies or Works Cited in two authoritative books or journal articles on your topic.

Find five key references to your topic, write a 40 word annotation (summary of main claims and evidence) for each reference. Bring this annotated bibliography in MLA style to class on Thursday 26th March.

The aim of this exercise is 1) for you to find out whether you have a viable research topic, 2) to find two authoritative source on that topic for your review essay, and 3) to discover and rectify any problems in your library research skills.

Compulsory Class Reading:

- Gibaldi, Joseph. "Documentation: Preparing the List of Works Cited." "Research and Writing." MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5th ed. New York: MLA, 1999. Chapter 4.

Week 4

Thursday 26th March
Annotated Bibliographic Essay Project

Samples of previous years' essays to be read and discussed in class.
Discuss Preliminary Research Exercise.
Hand out and gain feedback on your Bibliographic annotations.
Workshop your research question with the class.
Change directions with your research question.
Explain the Significance of your research question.

Compulsory Class Reading

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. "From Questions to Problems." The Craft of Research. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. 56-74.

Week 5

Thursday 2nd March

What makes a good argument? Identifying claims

The subject co-ordinator will choose one journal article for students to analyse together in class during the next three weeks. This exercise will help you develop a sense of how to construct a strong argument for your Honours thesis and/or 4th year essays. It is an essential exercise to develop the skills necessary for you to write your Review Essay. It will also help you structure your seminar presentation. Please read the appropriate section of The Craft of Research before coming to classes over the next 3 weeks.

Compulsory Class Reading

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. 114-137. Recommended reading: Ch. 7 "Making Good Arguments" & Ch. 8 "Claims" & "Qualifying Claims to Enhance Your Credibility."

No class on the Thursday night before Good Friday

*******Mid Semester Break – Friday 10th April - Friday 17^h of April*******

Week 6

Thursday 23rd April

Evaluating Reasons and Evidence

Compulsory Class Reading

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. "Reasons and Evidence." The Craft of Research. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. 138-150.

Week 7

Thursday 30th April

Anticipating objections and identifying warrants

Compulsory Class Reading

- Booth, Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. The Craft of Research. 2nd ed. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2003. 151-181. Recommended reading: Ch. 10 "Acknowledgments and Responses" & Ch. 11 "Warrants."

Week 8

Thursday 7th May

Individual Consultations re Review Essay and Bibliographic Essay

There is no formal class, however, the lecturer will be available to go through draft bibliographic essays and answer questions about the review essay with you if you wish. Book a time for Thursday 7th May between 2pm-7pm

******* Review Essay 2000 words due 4pm Friday 15th May*******

There are no formal classes for Week 9 to Week 10. Students are required to work on their annotated bibliographies and seminar presentations. I will be available during this period for consultations.

Week 11

Seminar Presentations

Monday 18th May

Seminar Presentations: to be chaired by students.

Tuesday 19th May

Seminar Presentations: to be chaired by students.

Wednesday 20th May

Seminar Presentations: to be chaired by students.

Thursday 21st May

Seminar Presentations: to be chaired by students.

Week 12

Seminar Presentations and conclusion

Thursday 28th May Seminar Presentations: to be chaired by students.

******* *Bibliographical 3000 word essay due 4pm Friday 5th June* *******