

Degree and course

Philosophy

Contact lecturer

Name: Andrea Soto Calderón

Email: andrea.soto@uab.cat

Group languages

Spanish/Catalan

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to take this course, although it is recommended to have taken the course of Aesthetics.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Philosophy of Cinema is an elective course in the fourth year of the philosophy degree. The aim of this course is to offer a general introduction to philosophical thought on cinema, while at the same time it takes an approach to how cinema has affected philosophical thought. It is an approach that questions the uniqueness of cinema, that aims to think about its intimate materiality in order to analyze how it is that it is constituted as a philosophical question. Therefore, the perspective adopted by this subject is far from the initial distrust expressed by philosophy towards cinema; on the contrary, it is interested in the type of aesthetic and temporal experience, in the performative possibilities that cinema enables.

On the other hand, the aim of this course is to introduce a philosophical reflection on the present. With the conceptual tools provided in the course, the aim is to enable students to understand and think philosophically not only through traditional written discourse, but also from other media and other forms within an operational field, without ceasing to create philosophical concepts from film.

- Identifying the main philosophical attitudes in the field of aesthetics and critically applying them in the art world.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Learning Outcomes

1. Accurately describing an artistic object with the specific language of art criticism.
2. Distinguishing and analysing classical and current debates of the History of Art.
3. Establishing relationships between science, philosophy, art, religion, politics, etc.
4. Identifying the artistic imagery, placing it into its cultural context.
5. Organizing their own time and work resources: designing plans with priorities of objectives, calendars and action commitments.

Contents

The content will be organized around four thematic axes:

I. The cinematic image: reality, representation, and abstraction

1. Ontology of cinema
2. Cinematic realism
3. From the critique of images to a critical image
4. Against abstraction
5. The dispersed figure

II. The image as operation: montage, movement, and time

6. Montage and configuration
7. Montage, gesture, and thought
8. Movement-image
9. Time-image
10. The breakdown of the classical narrative model
11. Sculpting in time
12. Affection-image

III. The work of fiction: other ways of constructing experience

13. Cinema, body, performativity
14. The supermarket of images
15. A thwarted fable
16. Desire for fiction

IV. The politics of images: looking, narrating, contesting

17. Indisciplines of the gaze
18. Formations in motion, the politics of stories
19. The coloniality of seeing

20. The right to opacity

21. Thinking through images

Learning activities and methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed	60	2,4	1,2,4,5
Type: Supervised	38	1,52	1,2,4
Type: Autonomous	42	1,68	1,4,5

Learning activities and methodology

The course methodology will combine lectures and seminars, utilizing texts as well as visual and audiovisual materials. In preparation for the seminars, students are required to complete weekly readings related to each topic and watch film excerpts; these will subsequently be discussed in small groups and presented during plenary sessions. The course demands a commitment to independent reading and the viewing of cinematic material, which will serve as the basis for group sessions. Furthermore, the course will foster "situated knowledge," emphasizing the importance of thinking through various cinematic practices.

Students will also have access to individual tutorials to receive guidance on their assignments or address specific questions regarding their own research.

Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous assessment activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
	33%	1,5	0,12	1,3,4
	33%	1,5	0,12	1,4,5
	34%	8	0,12	1,2,3,5

This course does not offer a single-assessment option.

Continuous assessment will consist of:

- An in-class exam involving the analysis of a short film, based on the conceptual frameworks and competencies addressed in the course (34%) (Individual).
- An in-class philosophical analysis based on a film excerpt and a selection of texts provided by the professor on the day of the assessment (33%) (Individual).
- An 8-minute video essay developing an audiovisual reflection on "thinking through images," paying special attention to the role of montage. This activity may be completed individually or in groups of up to three students (33%).

Exact submission dates will be announced during the first few days of class to allow for coordination with other courses in the Department.

Recovery

Students who have failed one, two, or all three tests may sit for a re-evaluation to retake the specific test(s) they failed. To be eligible for re-evaluation, students must have taken at least two of the three tests.

Students who have not taken any of the tests, or who have taken only one, will be classified as "not assessable."

Students must pass all three tests to pass the course. The final grade will be the average of the grades from the three tests. If a student commits any irregularity that could lead to a significant alteration of the grade for an assessment activity, that activity will be assigned a grade of 0, regardless of any disciplinary proceedings that may be initiated. If multiple irregularities occur across assessment activities for the same course, the final grade for the course will be 0.

Use of AI

Restricted use: In this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted exclusively for supporting activities, such as bibliographic or information searches, text editing, or translation. Students must clearly identify which parts were generated using this technology, specify the tools employed, and include a critical reflection on how these tools influenced the process and the final outcome of the activity. Failure to be transparent about the use of AI in this assessable activity will be considered a lack of academic honesty and may result in a partial or total grade penalty, or more severe sanctions in serious cases.

Bibliography

It will be distributed on the first day of class via the virtual campus.

Software

No specific computer program is used in this course.

Course groups and languages

Type of teaching	Group	Language	Semester	Shift
Example				
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Spanish/English	first semester	Morning
(TE) Theory	1	Spanish/English	first semester	Morning