

COURSE GUIDE

2025/26

Faculty

323 - Faculty of Social and Communication Sciences

Cycle

.

Degree

GCOMUN31 - Bachelor's Degree in Audiovisual Communication

Year

Second year

COURSE

27154 - Audio-visual Narrative

Credits, ECTS: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course Audio-visual narrative aims to give the students an overview of how audiovisual stories work in their different forms: films, ads, etc.

This course is related with theoretical and practical courses offered within our programme, such as "Audio-visual language" (1st year, in Spanish/Basque), Screenwriting, Audiovisual production, Analsis of film forms (3rd and 4th year, in Spanish/Basque), as well as History of Cinema (2nd year), Documentary Film Forms (3rd year) and Documentary Film Workshop (4th year), also available in English.

COMPETENCIES/LEARNING RESULTS FOR THE SUBJECT

Learning goals:

- Understand and be able to apply basic principles of narrative theory, and adapt them to the specificities of audio-visual forms
- Understand and be able to use different methodologies to analyse film (and other audio-visual) texts
- Use concepts and analytical tools for the analysis of audio-visual forms

Skills developed in this course and included in the list of competences to be developed within the Audio-visual Communication

Degree:

1. Analyse, interpret, explain and critically understand facts, social processes, texts and communication projects.
2. Study and understand the meaning and uses of theories, concepts and methodologies within the interdisciplinary context of Audio-Visual Communication (Media and Visual Studies).

Theoretical and Practical Contents

Theoretical program:

1. Basic concepts in narrative theory (storytelling)
2. Studying character and narrative theory: Propp and Campbell
3. Greimas's structural analysis
4. Point of view
5. Space and time

Practical program:

1. Compulsory film viewing of audio-visual works (out of class)
2. In-class assignments to put in practice theoretical concepts explained in class
3. Group-work

TEACHING METHODS

The course combines master-classes, with screenings and analysis of specific audio-visual works.



TYPES OF TEACHING

Types of teaching	M	S	GA	GL	GO	GCL	TA	TI	GCA
Hours of face-to-face teaching	32		28						
Horas de Actividad No Presencial del Alumno/a	48		42						

Legend: M: Lecture-based S: Seminar GA: Applied classroom-based groups
GL: Applied laboratory-based groups GO: Applied computer-based groups GCL: Applied clinical-based groups
TA: Workshop TI: Industrial workshop GCA: Applied fieldwork groups

Evaluation methods

- Continuous evaluation
- End-of-course evaluation

Evaluation tools and percentages of final mark

- Exercises, cases or problem sets 50%
- Teamwork assignments (problem solving, Project design) 50%

ORDINARY EXAMINATION PERIOD: GUIDELINES AND OPTING OUT

1) Continuous evaluation:

Assesment system:

*In-class asigments: 50% of the final grade

*Group-work: 50% of the final grade

The list of materials and audio-visual works to be used during the course, the content and date of in-class and work-group assignments will be specified at the beginning of the course, and/or on egela platform (moodle).

2) Final exam option (only available for students who meet specific criteria):

* The student who cannot attend the regular course should officially communicate to the professor in the first weeks of the semester that s/he opts for this option, and must follow the official regulations to do so

* The final exam will take place in the official date and place published in the faculty's web-site

* The contents of the exam would be those included in the course program

* The grade of this exam will be 100% of the final grade

EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION PERIOD: GUIDELINES AND OPTING OUT

"Extraordinary Exam sessions" (second call in June; and subsequent calls) will consist on an official exam, using the same system than the "final exam option".

MANDATORY MATERIALS

- Materials on egela platform (moodle)
- Audio-visual works (a list will be provided by the professor).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic bibliography

Bordwell, David. 1985. Narration in the Fiction Film. University of Wisconsin Press.

Verstraten, Peter. 2009. Film Narratology. University of Toronto Press.

Detailed bibliography

Audio-visual and film narrative:

Eco, Umberto. 2018. Sei passeggiate nei boschi narrativi. La nave di Teseo.

Eco, Umberto.2011. Lector in fabula. La cooperazione interpretativa nei testi narrativi. RCS Libri.

Gaudreault, André; Jost, François. 2017. Le récit cinématographique. 3e éd. Films et series télévisées. Armand Colin.

Kristin Thompson. 2003. Storytelling in Film and Television. Harvard University Press.

Lothe, Jakob. 2000. Narrative in Fiction and Film. ‎OUP.

De Lauretis, Teresa. 1984. Alice Doesn’t: Feminism, Semiotics, Cinema. Indiana University Press.

Metz, Christian. 1982. Psychoanalysis and Cinema: The Imaginary Signifier. Translated by Celia Britton, Annwyl Williams, Ben Brewster, and Alfred Guzzetti. Macmillan.

Mulvey, Laura. 1991. "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema." In Visual and Other Pleasures, 14–26. Macmillan.

Van Sijll, Jennifer. 2005. Cinematic Storytelling: The 100 Most Powerful Film Conventions Every Filmmaker Must Know. Michael Wiese Productions.

Narratology and semiotics:

Introductory texts:

Bal, Mieke. 2009. Narratology. Introduction to the Theory of Narrative. University of Toronto Press.

Monika Fludernik. 2009. An Introduction to Narratology. Routledge.

Schmid. 2010. Narratology. An Introduction. De Gruyter.

Classic authors:

Genette, Gérard. 1980. Narrative Discourse. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

Greimas, Algirdas Julien and Courtés, Joseph. 1982. Semiotics and Language. An Analytical Dictionary. Indiana University Press.

Greimas. 1987. On Meaning. Selected Writings in Semiotic Theory. University of Minnesota Press.

Propp, Vladimir. 2009. Morphology of the Folktale. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Vogler, Christopher. 2007. The Writers Journey. Mythic Structure for Writers. Michael Wiese Productions.

Journals

Web sites of interest

www.atlantisjournal.org/
www.cadrage.net/films/analyses.html
www.ucm.es/info/especulo/
shangrilaedicionesblog.blogspot.com/
www.imageandnarrative.be
www.ocula.it

OBSERVATIONS