

Poetic Realism: French Cinema of the 1930's and 1940's Syllabus

Instructor **Quarter:** Summer 2024
Start – end date: June 11 – August 8
Michael Latham **Session day/time:** Thursdays 1:30 – 4:00 pm CT
Course Code and Section: HUAS77506 24U1

Email **Course Overview**

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Before Italian Realism and the Nouvelle Vague, French filmmakers of the 1930's and early 1940's created a new cinematic vocabulary for the narrative cinema, emphasizing a stylized naturalism devoted to examining the less represented lives of the working class and the criminal underworld. These filmmakers, especially Jean Vigo, Marcel Carne and Jean Renoir, would be celebrated by the Cahier du Cinema critics who would become the filmmakers of the Nouvelle Vague in France a generation later, and provide the training ground for filmmakers such as Luchino Visconti, who would evolve the "poetic" realism of pre-war and wartime France into the postwar "neo"-realism that came to define the cinema of Italy in the 1940's and 1950's.

Modality

Remote Learning

Links to films are provided in the syllabus

Course schedule

Week	Director	Films
Week 1 June 11	Jean Grémillon	Remorques, 1941. 91 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/remorques-episode-1-tt0034093 Lumière d'été, 1943. 112 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/lumi%C3%A8re-d%C3%A9t%C3%A9-episode-1-tt0035001
Week 2	Jean Vigo	Zéro de conduit: Jeunes diables au college (Zero for Conduct), 1933. 44 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/zero-for-conduct-episode-1-tt0024803 L'Atalante. 1943. 89 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/l'atalante-episode-1-tt0024844

Week	Director	Films
Week 3	Jacques Feyder	<p>La kermesse heroïque (Carnival in Flanders), 1935. 95 mins. https://www.criterionchannel.com/videos/carnival-in-flanders</p> <p>Knight without Armor, 1937. 107 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/knight-without-armor-episode-1-tt0029087</p>
Week 4	Julien Duvivier	<p>La belle équipe, 1936. 100 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/la-belle-%C3%A9quipe-episode-1-tt0027342</p> <p>Pépé le Moko, 1937. 94 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/p%C3%A9p%C3%A9-le-moko-episode-1-tt0029453</p>
Week 5	Jean Renoir 1	<p>Boudu sauvé des eaux (Boudu saved from drowning). 1932. 85 mins. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0022718/?ref_=fn_al_tt_4</p> <p>Toni, 1935. 84 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/toni-episode-1-tt0025898</p> <p>Les bas-fonds (The Lower Depths), 1936. 90 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/the-lower-depths-episode-1-tt0027336</p>
Week 6	Jean Renoir 2	<p>La grande illusion (Grand Illusion), 1937. 113 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/la-grande-illusion-episode-1-tt0028950</p> <p>La règle du jeu (The Rules of the Game), 1939. 110 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/uid12042024-the-rules-of-the-game-episode-1-tt0031885</p>

Week	Director	Films
Week 7	Marcel Carné 1	<p>Le quai des brumes (Port of Shadows), 1938. 91 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/port-of-shadows-episode-1-tt0030643</p> <p>Le jour se lève, 1939. 93 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/_uid21112023-le-jour-se-l%C3%A8ve-episode-1-tt0031514</p>
Week 8	Marcel Carné 2	<p>Hôtel du Nord, 1938. 83 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/hotel-du-nord-episode-1-tt0030252</p> <p>Les enfants du paradis (Children of Paradise), 1945. 189 mins. https://fsharetv.co/movie/children-of-paradise-episode-1-tt0037674</p>

Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

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Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zmel@uchicago.edu.