

## **Film and Philosophy: Coming out of the Cave**

Dr. Orna Raviv

Spring Semester

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Office Hours: by appointment

### Short description:

This course deals with the relationship between cinema and philosophy and the way they both relate to shared problems. By analyzing how philosophers understood different aspects of the cinematic experience, such as the status of the cinematic image, the structure of points of view, and the nature of cinematic temporality, the course examines the potentiality of cinema to shed light on philosophical issues, such as the relationship between the viewer and the viewed, the problems of solipsism and skepticism, and questions concerning the notion of representation: Why philosophy has been hostile to films? How films and philosophy can be related? How do they respond to shared problems?

We will answer these questions by reading some of the major philosophical texts that are relevant to film theory, including the film philosophy of Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Vivian Sobchack, Stanley Cavell, and Gilles Deleuze and by looking into concrete examples from canonical films that can be understood and contextualized in respect to the literature that defines film-philosophy theory.

### Assessment:

#### Midterm (15%)

A short essay (about 3 pages) that elaborates on one of the questions discussed in class and relates to a non-discussed example of a cinematic work (15%).

#### Final requirement (75%)

A final paper that analyzes a cinematic work and a topic related to the material reviewed in class (7- 9 pages, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, excluding bibliography).

#### Participation (10%)

#### Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

#### Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from

another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Turn off all electronic apparatuses.