PHILOSOPHY OF FILM -- PHIL 4460/7190 – FALL 2019

Time: Tuesday 2:30-5:15ish
Place: 377 University College
Instructor: Carl Matheson

How to reach me:
Office: 459 University College.
Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30 - 3:30 or by appointment.
Phone: 474-9106. Leave a message on my voice mail if I’m not in.
Email: carl.matheson@umanitoba.ca  This is the most reliable way of reaching me.

Text: There is no textbook. Readings will be distributed to you, put on reserve or available for
download from the library databases.

Topics treated: Although the topics listed below are interesting and valuable in their own right, I
hope that the course will provide you with tools that enhance your ability to think about,
discuss, and appreciate films more fully.

Are photography and film art-forms?
Can we really have emotional reactions to films?
Why do we enjoy films that make us feel bad?
What characteristics of a movie makes it part of a genre, such as horror?
Are there true (or best) interpretations of films. If so, what is their relationship to the
intentions of their creators?
Do films have a moral value? Is there a relationship between a film’s moral value and its
aesthetic value?
Can we learn important things from films?
What sort(s) of things are films and TV shows
… and lots more.

Grading: Undergraduates will be expected to write two 3-4 page papers and one 6-8 page paper.
The first two papers are each worth 30% of your course grade, while the longer final paper is
worth 40%. Graduate students will be expected to do a bit more, as determined on an individual
basis. The papers will (more or less) be evenly distributed evenly over the term.

The voluntary withdrawal date for this course is November 18, 2019.

Please demonstrate academic integrity in what you do for this course. Don’t plagiarize or copy
the work of others. See:

http://umanitoba.ca/student/academicintegrity/  and

http://www.umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/academicintegrity/students/what-
do-graduate-students-need-to-know.html

If you are ever uncertain about the academic honesty of anything you are doing for the course,
please talk to me.