

Syllabus — Dec 2025

This information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: French Cinema: Gangsters, Thriller and Classics

Credits: 3

Format: Fully Online

Prerequisites: None

Professor: Roger Célestin

TA: Fadi ELSAID

Contact Information for Professor and TA:

Professor: roger.celestin@uconn.edu

Office Hours/Availability: Communicate with Professor Celestin via email only; you will receive a response from him within 24 hours.

TA: fadi.elsaid@uconn.edu

Office Hours/Availability: By email. The TA will respond to your emails within 24 hours.

Remarks:

- Please be aware that your TAs and professor might be in different time zones. **Make sure you always email the TA and Professor Celestin** in order to receive an answer to your request as quickly as possible.
- Students who remain registered in the class understand that some of the material presented contains violence and sexually explicit scenes.

Course Materials

No textbook is required for the course.

We will be watching nine feature films. Seven of these films will be provided either in the course's HUSkyCT site or through UCONN Kanopy streaming. You are required to rent, buy or obtain the remaining two films outside of HuskyCT or UCONN Kanopy; their availability on other sites is listed below. All other materials—articles, lists, etc.—are available on HuskyCT.

Required Films:

| | | |
|---|---|-----------------|
| <i>Double Indemnity</i> (Billy Wilder) | https://digitalcampus-swankmp-net.ezproxy.lib.uconn.edu/uconn272997/play/c67c9ed5e0bfd066 | Free |
| <i>Bob the Gambler</i> (Jean-Pierre Melville) | https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/5522690?vp=uconn | Free |
| <i>The Samurai</i> (Jean-Pierre Melville) | https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/239117?vp=uconn | Free |
| <i>Shoot the Piano Player</i> (François Truffaut) | http://ezproxy.lib.uconn.edu/login?url=https://www.kanopy.com/en/uconn/video/113385 | Free |
| <i>Bonne année (Happy New Year)</i> (Claude Lelouch) | Course HuskyCT site | Free |
| <i>Les Diaboliques</i> (Henri-Georges Clouzot) | https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/113471?vp=uconn | Free |
| <i>Diva</i> (Jean-Jacques Beineix) | Buy or rent: https://www.justwatch.com/us/movie/diva | \$3.99–\$14.99 |
| <i>Nikita</i> (Luc Besson) | Available for rent: https://www.justwatch.com/us/movie/la-femme-nikita | \$ 3.99- \$4.99 |
| <i>Return of Martin Guerre</i> (Daniel Vigne) | https://www.kanopy.com/en/product/5903645?vp=uconn | Free |

Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT

Course Description

This course is an introduction to film and film analysis through film screenings and by engagement and application of film-specific terminology. This course is an overview of French Cinema by way of specific film genres. The course fulfills both CA 1 and CA 4-INT.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify a film's genre.
- Use cinematic language to analyze films.
- Explain American directors' influences on genres of French cinema.
- Analyze a film from any culture by employing the concepts of form and content.
- Recognize the historical, social, political and artistic contexts of films.

Course Outline

- Module 1: Introduction to Film Noir
- Module 2: Applied Film Terminology
- Module 3: Film Noir and its Migration to France
- Module 4: Variations on Film Noir in France
- Module 5: Heists and Thrillers
- Module 6: Cinéma du Look

Module 7: History at the Movies in France

Summary of course grading

| assessments | point value | quantity | total |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|
| quiz | 10 pts | 6 | 60 pts |
| discussion | 40 pts | 6 | 240 pts |
| module-level test | 50 pts | 6 | 300 pts |
| final exam | 400 pts | 1 | 400 pts |
| | | | 1000 pts |

Quizzes:

The quizzes are meant to measure your ability to retain and understand the material conveyed in the lectures and in the films. Doing well on these quizzes is a clear indication that you will do well on the module tests at the end of each module because they cover the same material; in addition, these quizzes give you the opportunity to consolidate your grasp of the material by having three chances to get the correct answer. A minimal number of points is assigned to these quizzes because they are meant more as a reinforcement tool rather than a graded measurement of your overall performance.

Discussions:

The discussions are an integral component to a course in an online environment. Discussions are used to demonstrate a student's ability to assimilate the course materials and construct arguments based on their interpretation of ideas presented in the films, video lectures and course readings. Furthermore, the discussion component in this course measures a student's ability to engage the course materials via interaction with other students in the course. **The idea is for your posts to be concise and to the point, using a maximum of 100 words; it's OK to use bullet points.**

Tests:

The end-of-module tests are more elaborate because they require you to not only retain and understand the basic concepts and vocabulary—your knowledge of which is tested essentially in the ten short identifications requiring only one sentence answers—but also to engage you in a certain amount of analysis and comparison in the shape of 5 short paragraph answers.

Final Exam

The final is a combination of two things:

- Making sure you have acquired a knowledge of basic terms, vocabulary and familiarity of ten feature films; this is tested through multiple choice questions—many of which will be reconfigured from multiple choice questions you have already seen--and through one-sentence identifications of the type that you will also have already seen.
- Making sure that you are able to apply this knowledge by discussing it in well-argued and substantiated short essays.

Grading Scale

| Grade | Letter Grade | GPA |
|--------|--------------|-----|
| 93-100 | A | 4.0 |
| 90-92 | A- | 3.7 |
| 87-89 | B+ | 3.3 |
| 83-86 | B | 3.0 |
| 80-82 | B- | 2.7 |
| 77-79 | C+ | 2.3 |
| 73-76 | C | 2.0 |
| 70-72 | C- | 1.7 |
| 67-69 | D+ | 1.3 |
| 63-66 | D | 1.0 |
| 60-62 | D- | 0.7 |
| <60 | F | 0.0 |

New online/distance learning ID policy

The University of Connecticut is now required to verify the identity of students who participate in distance learning or online courses and to establish that students who register in these courses are the same students who participate in and complete the course activities and assessments and receive academic credit. Verification and authentication of student identity in this course will include:

1. Course delivery through HuskyCT and Online Course Discussions accessible *only* through the course HuskyCT site using your NetID and password.
2. During the Orientation Module you will be asked to introduce yourself to your Group Discussion members. Please post a picture (.png/.jpeg) of yourself – aka a "selfie" – with your student ID visible next to your face.
NB: the name printed on your student ID needs to be legible and the entire student ID needs to be in frame; the photo and student ID number must match how you are listed on the PeopleSoft course roster.
3. The same procedure as 2 will be repeated at the beginning of one or more assessments.

Here is a sample of what is required in your Introductory post for the Group Discussion board: Your personal introduction + a photo.



Other University policy

This course follows the University's policy about plagiarism, discrimination, and sexual harassment; you will find below a summary of these policies and links to get more information.

Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the

University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. More information is available at <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884>.
Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. More information is available at <http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/>.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:

The University of Connecticut Division of Student Affairs (Dean of Students Office) states the following in *The Student Code*: Academic misconduct is dishonest or unethical academic behavior that includes, but is not limited to, misrepresenting mastery in an academic area (e.g., cheating), failing to properly credit information, research or ideas to their rightful originators or representing such information, research or ideas as your own (e.g., plagiarism). (http://www.dos.uconn.edu/student_code_appendixa.html)

Misuse of Sources: The misuse of sources is the failure to acknowledge properly the source of an idea and/or specific language that is presented in any work submitted for evaluation, including (but not limited to) journal entries, drafts of papers, and final submissions of papers. The misuse of sources is a violation of academic codes of conduct and could result in serious penalty. The severity of the penalty depends on an individual instructor's assessment, in consultation with the Director and Associate Director of First-Year Writing.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the theft of another's ideas, specific language, or other media, and the presentation—for the purposes of evaluation—of that material as one's own, at any stage of the writing process, including (but not limited to) journal entries, drafts of papers, and final submissions of papers. The First-Year Writing Program takes plagiarism very seriously. **Any student who commits plagiarism will receive a grade of "F" for the course in which he or she has committed the act.** The First-Year Writing Office and the Office of Community Standards will keep the student's name in a permanent record of students who have committed plagiarism. The Dean of the School or College may also refer the case to the Academic Misconduct Hearing Board to consider whether or not further penalties, including expulsion from the University, are warranted.

To avoid misusing sources or committing plagiarism, a student must include all of his sources with full and proper acknowledgment.

Full and Proper Acknowledgement: The unambiguous identification of the sources of all ideas, language, and other materials that are not one's own. There are many different methods of identifying a source [MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.], depending on the discipline's academic conventions. Students must consult with their instructors to determine which method is appropriate for the course.

Due Dates and Late Policy:

All course due dates are identified in the Course Schedule located in HuskyCT. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, you still **must comply** with EST deadlines. *In case of need, the instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated to student in a timely manner.*

Late Policy:

Since this course is built on the principle that MODULES **are available only for a specified period of time**, at which point another MODULE begins, students must keep pace with the material and with the calendar. No late work is accepted but, if there are special circumstances, students can petition for an exception. The objective is not to penalize students, but to encourage them to keep a pace that will ensure their success in the course.

Feedback and Grades:

Every effort is made to provide feedback and grades in within 24 hours of an assessment. Final grades available 72 hours after end of course. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
 - Academic Integrity
 - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's [Center for Students with Disabilities \(CSD\)](#). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (**Note:** Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

Software Requirements and Technical Help

The technical requirements for this course include:

- Word processing software
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#)
- Internet access

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through [HuskyTech](#). Students also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.



- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.