

## **Feminism and Film: Women Filmmakers in Northern and Central Europe**

This is an introduction to the work of five women filmmakers from Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark, as well as to the viewing and interpretation of films in general.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:** One two-page paper (5%); one five-page paper which may be rewritten (25%); one storyboard (10%) accompanied by a five-page essay (25%), and five quizzes (25%; you may drop the lowest grade). Class participation will count 10%.

*This course carries the **Writing Flag**. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work.*

**ATTENDANCE:** This is a small class and your attendance and participation are important. If you are absent for more than three classes, your grade will go down by 1/3 of a grade for every subsequent absence – i.e. from B to B-, etc. It is also important that you come on time. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be counted absent for ½ of that class.

**ELECTRONICS POLICY:** All electronic devices—including mobile phones, note- and netbooks, ipods, and ipads—must be put away before the start of class.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Please let me know by the third day of class at the latest if you have a disability that has been certified by SSD, Services for Students with Disabilities. See [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/resp\\_fac.php](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/resp_fac.php) or the SSD website for more information.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** I will make accommodations for students who wish to observe religious holidays. Please let me know at least one class day in advance if you need such accommodation.

*Late papers will not be accepted unless you have made arrangements with me in advance.*

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### **REQUIRED TEXTS (for purchase and available on reserve at PCL):**

Bordwell and Thompson: *Film Art: An Introduction*. 9th ed.; 6<sup>th</sup> ed. on reserve:  
PN 1995 B617 2001

### **RECOMMENDED:**

*Nordic National Cinemas*. Ed. Soila et al. Routledge, 1998.  
Hake: *German National Cinema*. 2nd ed. Routledge, 2007.  
Matijs & Kumel: *The Cinema of the Low Countries*. Wallflower, 2004.  
Hjort and Mackenzie: *Purity and Provocation: Dogme 95*. BFI 2008

### **FILMS:**

Maj Zetterling: *Loving Couples*

*The Girls*

Margarethe von Trotta: *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*  
*Rosenstrasse*  
*Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen*  
*Hannah Arendt*

Marlene Gorris: *A Question of Silence*  
*Antonia's Line*  
*Mrs. Dalloway*

Lone Scherfig: *Italian for Beginners*  
*An Education*

Susanne Bier: *Like It Never Was Before*  
*Open Hearts*  
*Brothers*  
*In a Better World*

Most of the films are on reserve for library use only at the UGL Media Center. Many of them can also be rented at local video stores, especially Vulcan Video, Waterloo Video, and I Love Video. Netflix has some of them, as well, and some, such as *Fanny and Alexander* and *Persona*, are available for streaming. Many are available on Amazon, Hulu and Hulu plus. (Hulu plus has DVDs from the Criterion Collection.)

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## SYLLABUS

### Week One:

Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 4  
Aug. 28 Introduction to the class

### Week Two

Susanna Bier: *Brothers*  
Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 5  
Sept. 1 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY!  
Sept. 2  
Sept. 4

### Week Three

Mai Zetterling: *Loving Couples; The Girls*  
Recommended: Alf Sjöberg: *Torment*  
Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 3  
Sept. 9  
Sept. 11 QUIZ 1

### Week Four

Mai Zetterling: *The Girls*; Christina Olofsson: *Lines from the Heart*  
Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 6; Laura Mulvey: "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"  
Sept. 16

Sept. 18            **2-PAGE FRAME ANALYSIS DUE IN CLASS AND ONLINE**

**Week Five**

Margarethe von Trotta and Volker Schlöndorff: *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*

Recommended: *Marianne and Juliane*

Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 7; E. Ann Kaplan: "Is the Gaze Male?"

Sept. 23

Sept. 25            **QUIZ 2**

**Week Six**

Margarethe von Trotta: *Rosenstrasse*

Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 8; Claire Johnston: "Women's Cinema as Counter-Cinema"

Sept. 30

Oct. 2

**Week Seven**

Margarethe von Trotta: *Vision: From the Life of Hildegard von Bingen*

Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 9; Annette Kuhn: "Women's Genres"

Oct. 7

Oct. 9              **QUIZ 3**

**Week Eight**

Margarethe von Trotta: *Hannah Arendt*

Recommended: *Rosa Luxembourg*

Reading: Bordwell and Thompson: Chapter 10; Hannah Arendt: Selections from *The Human Condition*

Oct. 14

Oct. 16

**Week Nine**

Marlene Gorris: *A Question of Silence; Antonia's Line*

Reading: Mary Ann Doane: "Woman's Stake: Filming the Female Body"

Oct. 21

Oct. 23            **FIRST FIVE-PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS AND ONLINE**

**Week Ten**

Marlene Gorris: *Antonia's Line; Mrs. Dalloway*

Reading: Selections from *Laxdæla Saga*

Oct. 28

Oct. 30            **QUIZ 4**

**Week Eleven**

Marlene Gorris: *Mrs. Dalloway*; Lone Scherfig: *Italian for Beginners*

Reading: Selections from *Mrs. Dalloway*

Nov. 4

Nov. 6

**Week Twelve**

Lone Scherfig: *An Education*; Susanna Bier: *Like It Never Was Before*

Recommended: Susanne Bier: *Freud Leaving Home; After the Wedding; Love Is All You Need*

Reading: Elizabeth Grosz: "Experimental Desire: Rethinking Queer Subjectivity"

Nov. 11

Nov. 13

**Week Thirteen**

Susanna Bier: *Open Hearts; In a Better World*

Nov. 18

**LAST DAY TO TURN IN REWRITES**

Nov. 20

**PRELIMINARY STORYBOARDS DUE IN CLASS**

**Week Fourteen**

Susanna Bier: *In a Better World*

Nov. 25

Nov. 27            **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Week Fifteen**

Dec. 2

Dec. 4            **Wrap-Up; FINAL QUIZ**

**STORYBOARDS AND STORYBOARD PAPERS DUE IN CLASS AND ONLINE**