

A List of Core Films for Incoming Graduate Students

Note: The Department of Cinema expects incoming graduate students to possess a reasonable degree of familiarity with films that have proven central to the history of cinema. To that end, at least three advanced film courses are required prior to entering the program. Additionally, the Department expects that new students will be familiar with the films in each of the following categories. Familiar means having seen most of the films at least once and having read at least one substantial account that addresses significant aspects of each film. The titles listed are not exhaustive; other titles may be added, and partial knowledge is strongly preferred to minimal knowledge.

Silent Cinema

Rene Clair, PARIS QUI DORT [CRAZY RAY], LE MILLION
Abel Gance, THE WHEEL, NAPOLEON
Luis Bunuel, UN CHIEN ANDALOU
Sergei Eisenstein, STRIKE, BATTLESHIP POTEMKIN, IVAN THE TERRIBLE, I, II, QUE VIVA MEXICO, OCTOBER, THE OLD AND THE NEW
D.W. GRIFFITH, sample of various Biograph shorts, BIRTH OF A NATION, BROKEN BLOSSOMS
Lois Weber, THE BLOT
Oscar Micheux, BODY AND SOUL, BIRTHRIGHT, WITHIN OUR GATES
Cecil Hepworth, RESCUED BY ROVER (1902 or so)
Lumiere Brothers, the program of 1895, at least, THE ARRIVAL OF A TRAIN, WORKERS LEAVING THE FACTORY, BATHING THE BABY
Eric von Stroheim, FOOLISH WIVES, GREED
Alexander Dovzhenko, ARSENAL, EARTH
V. Pudovkin, STORM OVER ASIA, DESERTER
Alexander Kirisinov, MENILMONTANT
F.W. Murnau, NOSFERATU, SUNRISE, FAUST
Alice Guy Blanche, various titles
Georges Melies, A TRIP TO THE MOON, various shorts
Buster Keaton, OUR HOSPITALITY, STEAMBOAT BILL, SHERLOCK JR. THE GENERAL, various shorts
Charlie Chaplin, CITY LIGHTS, THE GOLD RUSH, MODERN TIMES, various shorts

European Cinema

Luis Bunuel, THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE, EXTERMINATING ANGEL
Vittorio De Sica, THE BICYCLE THIEF
Julien Duvivier, PEPE LE MOKO
Roberto Rossellini, ROME OPEN CITY, PAISAN
Carl Dreyer, THE PASSION OF JOAN OF ARC

Robert Bresson, PICKPOCKET, A CONDEMNED MAN ESCAPED
Rainer Werner Fassbinder, THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN, MOTHER KUSTERS
GOES TO HEAVEN, FEAR EATS THE SOUL ALI, IN THE YEAR OF THIRTEEN
MOONS
Clair Denis, CHOCOLAT
Federico Fellini, 8 1/2, LA STRADA
Ingmar Bergman, PERSONA, WILD STRAWBERRIES, VIRGIN SPRING
Bernardo Bertolucci, THE CONFORMIST, 1900
Jean-Luc Godard, PIERROT LE FOU, BREATHLESS, HAIL MARY, SIX FOUS DEUX,
DEUX OR TROIS CHOSES QUE JE SAIS D'ELLE
Peter Greenaway, THE DRAUGHTMAN'S CONTRACT
Miklos Jansco, THE RED AND THE WHITE
Dusan Makavejev, WR: MYSTERIES OF THE ORGANISM, THE CASE OF THE
MISSING SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR
Lindsay Anderson, THIS SPORTING LIFE, IF
Sally Potter, THRILLER
David Lean, LAWRENCE OF ARABIA, THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI
Jean Renoir, THE RULES OF THE GAME, THE RIVER, BOUDU SAVED FROM
DROWNING
Margareta von Trotta, SISTERS, THE LOST HONOR OF KATERINA BLUM
Andre Tarkovsky, ANDREI RUBLEV, THE STALKER, NOSTALGIA, SOLARIS
Francois Truffaut, SHOOT THE PIANO PLAYER, 400 BLOWS
Jacques Tati, MON ONCLE, PLAYTIME
Marlene Gorriss, A QUESTION OF SILENCE
Josef von Sternberg, THE BLUE ANGEL
Alain Resnais, HIROSHIMA MON AMOUR
Fritz Lang, METROPOLIS, DR. MABUSE
Marta Mazaros, ADOPTION, DIARY FOR MY LOVES
R. Wiene, THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI
Andrzej Wajda, ASHES AND DIAMONDS, KANAL, MAN OF IRON, PROMISED
LAND
Lina Wertmuller, SWEEPED AWAY, LOVE AND ANARCHY
Michaelangelo Antonioni, THE ECLIPSE, L'AVVENTURA, RED DESERT, ZABRISKIE
POINT
Roman Polanski, REPULSION, KNIFE IN THE WATER
Chantal Ackerman, LETTERS FROM HOME, JEANNE DIELMAN

Classic American Cinema (1928-1975)

Charlie Chaplin, THE GREAT DICTATOR
Francis Ford Coppola, THE GODFATHER, I, II
Stanley Donen, SINGIN' IN THE RAIN [WITH Gene Kelly], TWO FOR THE ROAD

John Ford, STAGECOACH, THE SEARCHERS, YOUNG MR. LINCOLN, FORT APACHE
William Wyler, THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES
Josef von Sternberg, MOROCCO
Dorothy Arzner, DANCE, GIRL, DANCE; CHRISTOPHER STRONG
Fritz Lang, BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT, THE BIG HEAT
Alfred Hitchcock, BLACKMAIL, YOUNG AND INNOCENT, STRANGERS ON A TRAIN, NOTORIOUS, VERTIGO, REAR WINDOW, PSYCHO, MARNIE
Stanley Kubrick, DR. STRANGELOVE, PATHS OF GLORY, KILLER'S KISS, SPARTACUS
Douglas Sirk, WRITTEN ON THE WIND, ALL THAT HEAVEN ALLOWS
Ernest Lubitsch, THE LOVE PARADE, TROUBLE IN PARADISE
Billy Wilder, SUNSET BOULEVARD, DOUBLE INDEMNITY, SOME LIKE IT HOT, ACE IN THE HOLE
Orson Welles, CITIZEN KANE, TOUCH OF EVIL, F FOR FAKE
Sam Fuller, UNDERWORLD U.S.A., RUN OF THE ARROW, NAKED KISS, SHOCK CORRIDOR, PICKUP ON SOUTH STREET
Nicholas Ray, REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE
Robert Aldrich, KISS ME DEADLY
Howard Hawks, RIO BRAVO, THE BIG SLEEP, BRINGING UP BABY
Edgard Ulmer, DETOUR
King Vidor, DUEL IN THE SUN, STELLA DALLAS
Michael Curtiz, MILDRED PIERCE, CASABLANCA
Joseph Lewis, GUN CRAZY
Abraham Polonsky, FORCE OF EVIL
Walt Disney, STEAMBOAT WILLIE, FANTASIA, BAMBI, SNOW WHITE
Elia Kazan, ON THE WATERFRONT

Modern American Cinema (1975-)

Arthur Penn, BONNIE AND CLYDE, THE LEFT-HANDED GUN, FOUR FRIENDS
Roman Polanski, CHINATOWN
Bob Rafelson, FIVE EASY PIECES
Steven Spielberg, JAWS
George Lucas, STAR WARS, AMERICAN GRAFFITI
Brian de Palma, GREETINGS, SISTERS, BODY DOUBLE
Ridley Scott, BLADE RUNNER, THELMA AND LOUISE
Robert Altman, NASHVILLE, MACCABE AND MRS. MILLER
Luis Malle, ATLANTIC CITY
Terence Malick, BADLANDS, DAYS OF HEAVEN
Paul Schrader, AFFLICTION
Claudia Weil, GIRLFRIENDS
Quentin Tarantino, RESERVOIR DOGS, PULP FICTION
Lawrence Kasdan, BODY HEAT

Amy Heckerling, FAST TIMES AT RIDGEMONT HIGH
Peter Bogdanovich, THE LAST PICTURE SHOW
Martin Scorsese, RAGING BULL, TAXI DRIVER
Francis Coppola, THE CONVERSATION, APOCALYPSE NOW

Independent American Cinema

Todd Haynes, SAFE, POISON, SUPERSTAR: THE KAREN CARPENTER STORY
Charles Burnett, KILLER OF SHEEP
Coen Brothers, BLOOD SIMPLE, BARTON FINK
Jim Jarmusch, STRANGER THAN PARADISE, MYSTERY TRAIN
Spike Lee, SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT, DO THE RIGHT THING
John Cassavetes, SHADOWS, WOMAN UNDER THE INFLUENCE
John Sayles, RETURN OF THE SECAUCUS SEVEN, CITY OF LOVE
Hal Hartley, TRUST, THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH
Dennis Hopper, EASY RIDER
Claudia Weil, GIRLFRIENDS
Luis Valdez, ZOOT SUIT, LA BAMBA
Susan Seidelman, DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN
John McNaughton, HENRY: PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL KILLER
Steven Soderbergh, SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE, SCHIZOPOLIS, KAFKA
Richard Linklater, SLACKER
Julie Dash, DAUGHTERS OF THE DUST
Jim McBride, DAVID HOLTZMAN'S DIARY
Bill Sherwood, PARTING GLANCES
David Lynch, ERASERHEAD
Lizzie Borden, BORN IN FLAMES
Martin Scorsese, MEAN STREETS
Melvin Van Peebles, SWEET SWEETBACK'S BAADASSSS SONG
Wayne Wong, CHAN IS MISSING
Greg Araki, THE LIVING END
Yvonne Rainer, THE MAN WHO ENVIED WOMEN

Asian Cinema

Akira Kurosawa, THE HIGH AND THE LOW, STRAY DOG, YOJIMBO, THE SEVEN SAMURAI, IKIRU, RASHOMON
Kon Ichikawa, FIRES ON THE PLAIN
Kenji Mizoguchi, THE LIFE OF OHARU, UGETSU
Nagisa Oshima, DEATH BY HANGING, THE CEREMONY
Yasujiro Ozu, TOKYO STORY, EARLY SPRING, LATE SPRING
Chen Kaige, YELLOW EARTH, FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE
Hou Hsiao-Hsien, CITY OF SADNESS, GOODBYE SOUTH, GOODBYE

Satyajit Ray, PATHER PANCHALI, MAHANAGAR [BIG CITY], DISTANT THUNDER,
CHARULATA
Zhang Yimou, JU DOU, RAISE THE RED LANTERN
Ishiro Honda, GODZILLA [Japanese, 1954, and American, 1956, versions]
Hiroshi Teshigahara, WOMAN OF THE DUNES
Mani Kaul, Uski Roti [Daily Bread]
Mrinal Sen, BHUVAN SHOME, THE RUINS
John Woo, A BETTER TOMORROW, THE KILLER
Abbas Kiarostami, WHERE IS THE FRIEND'S HOME, LIFE AND NOTHING MORE,
THROUGH THE OLIVE TREES, CLOSEUP
Mohsen Makhmalbaf, THE PEDDLER, THE CYCLIST, GABBEH
Ebrahim Forouzesh, THE KEY

African and Latin American Cinema

Glauba Rocha, DER LIONE HAS SEPT CABECAS [THE LION HAS SEVEN HEADS];
BLACK GOD, WHITE DEVIL
Tomas Alea, MEMORIES OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT, THE LAST SUPPER
Nelson Pereira dos Santos, HOW TASTY WAS MY LITTLE FRENCHMAN
Jorge Sanjines, THE COURAGE OF THE PEOPLE, BLOOD OF THE CONDOR
Gillo Pontocorvo, THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS
Ousmane Sembene, BLACK GIRL, EMITAI, XALA, CEDDO
Humberto Solas, LUCIA
Miguel Littin, EL CHACAL DE NAHUELTORO, THE PROMISED LAND
Patricio Guzman, THE BATTLE OF CHILE
Hector Babenco, PIXOTE, KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN
Eduardo Coutinho, A MAN MARKED TO DIE [aka TWENTY YEARS AFTER]
Carlos Dieges, QUILOMBO, XICA DA SILVA
Joaquim Pedro de Andrade, MACUNAIMA
Artur Omar, TRISTE TROPICO
Jorge Furtado, ISLE OF FLOWERS (short film)
Luis Bunuel LOS OLVIDADOS
Helvio Soto, BLOODSTAINED NITRATE
Raul Ruiz, TRES TRISTES TIGRES, THE PENAL COLONY

Experimental Cinema

Luis Bunuel, , L'AGE D'OR
Stan Brakhage, WINDOW WATER BABY MOVING, MACHINES OF EDEN, DESIST
FILM, and any three other films
Peter Kubelka, ARNULF RAINER, UNSERE AFRIKAREISE
Maya Deren, video of all her works, or at least MESHES OF THE AFTERNOON, AT
LAND, RITUAL IN TRANSFIGURED TIME
Chris Marker, LA JETTE

Luis Delluc, FEVER
Germaine Dullac, THE SMILING MADAME BEUDET
Carolee Schneeman, FUSES
Jack Smith, FLAMING CREATURES
Man Ray, complete works (videotape)
Hans Richter, complete works (videotape)
Kenneth Anger, complete works (videotape)
V. Pudovkin, CHESS FEVER
Su Friedrich, THE TIES THAT BIND
Jay Rosenblatt, THE SMELL OF BURNING ANTS, KING OF THE JEWS, HUMAN
REMAINS
Rea Tajiri, HISTORY AND MEMORY
Peter Forgacs, FREE FALL, DANUBE EXODUS, THE MAELSTROM
Bruce Conner, A MOVIE, MARILYN X FIVE, COSMIC RAY
Jean Cocteau, BLOOD OF THE POET, ORPHEUS
Andy Warhol, BLOW JOB, FLESH, TRASH
Michael Snow, WAVELENGTH
David Rimmer, VARIATIONS ON A CELLOPHANE WRAPPER, WATCHING FOR
THE QUEEN, SURFACING ON THE THAMES
Laura Mulvey and Peter Wollen, RIDDLES OF THE SPHINX
George Kuchar, various shorts
Trinh T. Minh-ha, REASSEMBLAGE, SURNAME VIET GIVEN NAME NAM
Bill Viola, various shorts
Gary Hill, various shorts
Woody and Seina Vasulka, various shorts

Documentary Cinema

Luis Bunuel, LAND WITHOUT BREAD
Les Blank, BURDEN OF DREAMS
Christine Choy and Renee Tajima, WHO KILLED VINCENT CHIN?
Claude Lanzmann, SHOAH
Marcel Ophuls, THE SORROW AND THE PITY, HOTEL TERMINUS: THE LIFE AND
TIMES OF KLAUS BARBIE
Errol Morris, THE THIN BLUE LINE; GATES OF HEAVEN; FAST, CHEAP AND OUT
OF CONTROL
Barbara Kopple, HARLAN COUNTY, USA
Jean Rouch, LES MAITRES FOUS, JAGUAR, CHRONICLE OF A SUMMER
Drew Associates, PRIMARY, THE CHAIR
Maysles Brothers (David and Albert), SALESMAN, GIMME SHELTER
Fred Wiseman, HIGH SCHOOL, TITICUT FOLLIES, MODEL

Hara Kazuo, THE EMPEROR'S NAKED ARMY MARCHES ON, EXTREMELY PERSONAL EROS: LOVE SONG

Robert Flaherty, NANOOK OF THE NORTH, LOUISIANA STORY

Mikhail Kalatozov, SALT FOR SVANETIA

Dziga Vertov, MAN WITH A MOVIE CAMERA, THREE SONGS FOR LENIN, SYMPHONY OF THE DON BASIN, KINO-PRAVDA

F. Solanas, THE HOUR OF THE FURNACES

D. Pennebaker, DON'T LOOK BACK, MONTEREY POP, THE WAR ROOM

Connie Field, THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ROSIE THE RIVETER

Emile de Antonio, IN THE YEAR OF THE PIG, POINT OF ORDER, PAINTER'S PAINTING

Joris Ivens, SPANISH EARTH, NEW EARTH, INDONESIA CALLING

Isaac Julien, LOOKING FOR LANGSTON

John Akomfrah, HANDSWORTH SONGS