



## Course details

### Course title

Film Studies: 5 Forgotten Gems of French Cinema

### Course code

Q00020080

### Course date

Start: 14/01/25

End: 11/02/25

### Number of classes

5 sessions

### Timetable

Tue 14th Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 21st Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 28th Jan, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 4th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

Tue 11th Feb, 14:00 to 16:00

### Tutor

George Cromack

### Fee range

Free to £37.00

### How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

## **Venue**

Online

## **Level of study**

Beginners

## **Course overview**

A friendly and accessible course looking at a selection of 5 films from France, we examine, have fun and discuss a selection of often overlooked works from France, some classic and some more modern. A selection of 'convention breakers', you may wonder why you've never seen. This course aims to promote knowledge, understanding, appreciation and confidence regarding film and cinema in general, whilst also aiding our critical thinking and well-being in general. We consider running themes, artistic intentions, critical and audience appeal then and now. Identifying differing techniques and approaches, historical context; whilst also highlighting specialist language and terminology: developing communication skills and confidence in delivering informed feedback.

## **Course description**

The cinema of France is often overshadowed by the same few films made during the country's New Wave period, this course seeks to (re)visit and examine 'some' all too often overlooked films of this era but also go beyond it. Prior to the New Wave, 1930s France had already had its 'Poetic Realism' movement, of which Jean Renoir's *Le Grande Illusion* involving German and French Officers as Prisoners of War during WW1 is regarded by many as an anti-war/class commentary masterpiece yet it remains little seen. Whilst Jean Luc Goddard's noir-ish *Alphaville* adds a touch of futuristic sci-fi to what is typically a Hollywood genre. The iconic, but lesser seen, *Last Year at Marienbad* presents a psychological puzzle and was a huge stylistic influence on films such as *The Draughtsman's Contract* and others. *Orphee* takes us into a romantic fantasy from the mind of Jean Cocteau (*La Belle et la Bette*). Whilst Left Bank artist and filmmaker Angès Varda's documentary *The Gleaners & I* makes a late career use of her signature 'cinécriture' (cinema-writing) style. We discuss the intentions beyond all these films, consider they say about French cinema and their appeal then and now. *Alphaville* (1965), *Last Year at Marienbad* (1961), *Orphee* (1950), *Le Grande Illusion* (1937), *The Gleaners & I* (2000).

## **What financial support is available?**

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

## **What other support is available?**

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

**Source URL:** <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/languages-culture/film/14-january-film-studies-5-forgotten-gems-french-cinema>