French 320: French Cinema

This is a course in the study of French cinema, from the New Wave to contemporary French cinema. The class will be taught in English. It is designed to help students develop a critical understanding of how films produce meaning. To that end, it approaches cinema as an art form, an industry, and a system of representation and communication, examining how films work technically, aesthetically and culturally. We will screen films by Truffaut, Godard, Resnais, Varda, Rivette, Beinex, Breillat, Kassovitz and others. Supplementary readings will address the history of the New Wave, the condition of its production, as well as such watershed moments in French cultural history as the Great War, the Occupation, the Holocaust, May 68, the postmodern and post-colonial age. Of particular concern will be the cinema’s role in both defining and perpetuating various visions of French national and cultural identity. It also explores some of the social, political and theoretical questions raised by French cinema since the establishment of the Fifth Republic in 1958.

Fall 2015, FREN 320 Sec.# 34271D 2 pm-4:50pm Wednesdays WPH B30

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