



philosophy



CINEMA

Philosophy & Cinema

(Philosophy 42)

Fall 2018

Thursdays
3:30p-6:40p

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Imagining life without movies is like imagining a tray of cupcakes without icing!

The medium of film has overtaken just about all other artistic media in its powers to mold our beliefs, desires, fears, and even our identities—sometimes for better, sometimes for worse. To this extent, film invites philosophical reflection in two broad ways, which will structure the discussions, readings, and film screenings of this course.

First, films can serve as a vehicle for philosophical ideas.

These include, for example, reality and appearance, good and evil, and knowledge and skepticism.

Second, the experience of watching films has a way of reflecting back upon itself and nudging us to ask what film is in a deeper sense. In this case, asking questions such as the following: Does film passively mirror reality? Or does it provide an alternative reality of its own? Is the viewer active in constructing any film narrative? Or is the viewing experience a passive one?