

21L 011 THE FILM EXPERIENCE
Professor David Thorburn

Suggested Paper Topics
Third Essay

1. Historical or cultural transition in Ford or Altman or Fosse or Renoir or Kurosawa.
2. The city in Fosse, DeSica or Kurosawa.
3. Women in Ford and/or Altman.
4. Visual style in Renoir or DeSica: a close reading of one or two representative sequences.
5. Comic elements in Ford or Altman or Renoir or Kurosawa.
6. The role of a supporting character: for example, the baron in *Cabaret*, von Rauffenstein in *Grand Illusion*, the mother in *Bicycle Thieves*, a secondary samurai or villager in *Seven Samurai*.
7. Notions of heroism in Ford and/or Altman or Renoir.
8. The relationship between the performance sequences in *Cabaret* or *Singin in the Rain* and larger themes.
9. The theme of innocence in *Cabaret* or *Bicycle Thieves*.
10. Social class in *Grand Illusion*.
11. Father and son in *Bicycle Thieves*.
12. Endings: montage, mise en scene and ambiguity in the final sequences of *Grand Illusion*, *Bicycle Thieves*, *Seven Samurai* or *Cabaret*.
13. Organized religion in *Bicycle Thieves*.
14. The natural world in Ford or Altman or Kurosawa.