
Viewing Guide – *The Cinema of the English-Speaking World*

These suggested films are some that will or may come up for discussion during the first course. If you go to Netflix, you can use hyperlinks to find further suggestions. The year listed is the year of theatrical release in the US. VOD is "Video On Demand." Note: It is not necessary to see any or all of the films, by any means. These simply serve as a guide for the discussion. You can also use IMDB.com (Internet Movie Database) to search for other works by these filmmakers. You can also keep this list for future viewing after the session, if that is what you prefer. I've noted in bold the films that contain scenes that could be too extreme for some viewers. In the "Additional works" lines, those titles are noted by an asterisk.

The Deep Blue Sea Director: Terence Davies. 2011. United Kingdom. 98 minutes. Rated R.

This remake of the original 1955 film, adapted from a Terence Rattigan play, stars Rachel Weisz as a wedded woman who falls hard for a younger man. Her determination and emotional obsession lead her into tragic conflict with the morals of the day.

Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

We Need to Talk About Kevin Director: Lynne Ramsay. 2011. United Kingdom. 112 minutes. Rated R.

Kevin's mother struggles to love her strange child, despite the increasingly vicious things he says and does as he grows up. But Kevin is just getting started, and his final act will be beyond anything anyone imagined.

Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

The Trip Director: Michael Winterbottom. 2010. United Kingdom. 112 minutes. Not Rated.

Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon, the stars of the 2005 comedy *Tristram Shandy*, reunite with director Michael Winterbottom for this rib-tickling mockumentary about a pair of actors who set off on a foodie road trip across England.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Philomena Director: Stephen Frears. 2013. United Kingdom. 95 minutes. Rated PG-13.

Floundering BBC journalist Martin Sixsmith and aging Irishwoman Philomena Lee form an unlikely bond when they pair up to find the son Philomena was forced to give up for adoption 50 years ago.

Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant (for purchase only).

Eastern Promises Director: David Cronenberg. 2007. Canada. 101 minutes. Rated R.

Notorious Russian gangster Nikolai Luzhin finds his normally steely resolve compromised when he learns that a midwife named Anna has discovered incriminating evidence against his "family" in the pages of a dead woman's diary.

Available on Netflix DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Stories We Tell

Director: Sarah Polley. 2013. Canada. Rated PG-13.

Using a mix of interviews and sly home movies, Sarah Polley creates an intriguing profile of her family, especially her mother, Diane, who died when Polley was 11 years old. In a family of storytellers, does the truth depend on who does the telling?

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

The Sweet Hereafter

Director: Atom Egoyan. 1997. Canada. 112 minutes. Rated R.

Director Atom Egoyan's haunting adaptation of Russell Banks's novel follows a grieving mountain community in the wake of a tragic school bus accident that takes the lives of numerous local children. A lawyer (Ian Holm) arrives in town to persuade the survivors to initiate a class-action lawsuit, driving apart the once tight-knit hamlet. Meanwhile, a teen crippled in the crash (Sarah Polley) must choose between mourning and moving on.

Available on Netflix DVD. Also available on Amazon Instant.

Laurence Anyways

Director: Xavier Dolan. 2012. Canada. 159 minutes. Not Rated.

Thirtysomething high school teacher Laurence seems to have the perfect life, but when he confesses to his fiancée that he wants to live as a woman, he must overcome both her resistance and that of his bewildered family and dubious co-workers.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Moulin Rouge

Director: Baz Luhrmann. 2001. Australia. 127 minutes. Rated PG-13.

A naïve young poet (Ewan McGregor) falls in love with a cabaret star (Nicole Kidman), and their ill-fated romance serves as a convenient peg on which to hang a dazzling array of songs, from snatches of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" to Madonna's "Like a Virgin." But the real star is director Baz Luhrmann, who came up with this infectious concoction that won two Oscars for art direction and costume design as well as six other nods.

Available on Netflix DVD. Also available on Amazon Instant.

Rabbit-Proof Fence

Director: Philip Noyce. 2002. Australia. 93 minutes. Rated PG.

Australia's aboriginal integration program of the 1930s broke countless hearts -- among them, those of young Molly (Evelyn Sampi), Gracie (Laura Monaghan) and Daisy (Tianna Sansbury), who were torn from their families and placed in an abusive orphanage. Without food or water, the girls resolve to make the 1,500-mile trek home. Meanwhile, a well-intentioned tracker is trying to return the girls to the authorities.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Bright Star

Director: Jane Campion. 2009. Australia / New Zealand. 119 minutes. Rated PG.

Critically acclaimed Australian filmmaker Jane Campion helms this drama detailing the passionate three-year romance between 19th-century Romantic poet John Keats (Ben Whishaw) -- who died tragically at age 25 -- and his great love and muse, Fanny Brawne (Abbie Cornish). Much of the story was inspired by Keats's poetry and the actual love letters the pair exchanged. Thomas Sangster, Paul Schneider and Kerry Fox co-star.

Available on Netflix DVD. Also available on Amazon Instant.

Boy

Director: Taika Waititi. 2010. New Zealand. 88 minutes. Not Rated.

Filmed in his native New Zealand, this comedy from writer-director Taika Waititi follows 11-year-old Boy and his younger brother, Rocky, whose rich fantasy lives are stopped cold when their father returns home after years away.

Available on Netflix streaming and DVD . Also available on Amazon Instant.

Whale Rider

Director: Nicki Caro. 2003. New Zealand. 101 minutes. Rated PG-13.

A Maori tribe must contend with the distinctly nontraditional concept of having a female leader when the intended heir to the throne dies during childbirth, leaving his twin sister, Paikea, to prove herself in this inspiring coming-of-age tale.

Available on Netflix DVD.