

**Film Studies (FILM) 409.2 – Lecture 01
Amateur Media from Kodak to YouTube
Fall 2013**

Lecture: Friday 10:00 - 11:50

Lab: Friday 12:00 – 14:45

Instructor: Dr. Charles Tepperman
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Web Page: On Blackboard
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description

This course explores the place of the amateur in film history and contemporary film culture. Despite their well-chronicled history as a popular, commercial medium, motion pictures were understood from their invention as an amateur medium as well. This course will examine the rise of amateur movies, home movies, and movie clubs; it will also situate developments in motion pictures alongside amateur activities in still photography, radio, theatre, as well as more recent online (blogs) and digital (Second Life) DIY activities.

Additional Information

Attendance at both lectures and labs, and informed participation are essential components of this course and will help determine your final grade. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the films and required reading.

Objectives of the Course

The goal of this course is to introduce a range of historical, theoretical and analytic tools for a consideration of amateur media. Each of these categories implies a different way of understanding the film text and film culture, and therefore requires a different research methodology. Consequently, a significant objective of this course is to develop the necessary skills and critical approaches for determining which of these methods and theories are most salient or productive in particular kinds of film studies research. Successful students in this course will learn not only how to synthesize and analyze these different approaches, but also how to put them into practice in self-directed research projects. Students will also develop the skills necessary to participate in an applied group project: Home Movie Day.

Textbooks and Readings:

Course readings will be available via the course website on Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

Class participation: 10%

In-class discussion is an essential component of the course. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the readings and screenings. Class participation grades will be evaluated based on the quality of your contributions to in-class discussions.

In-class presentation (weekly): 10%

A 10-15 minute in-class presentation about an amateur media-related technologies; topics selected from sign-up sheet distributed in Week 1.

In-class analysis (Sept. 27): 10%

An in-class writing assignment that entails the analysis of a specific film, to be shown in class; the analysis should comment on particular formal and stylistic qualities of the film, while also drawing on course readings to contextualize the work.

Home Movie Day Group Project (Oct. 19; Report Due Oct. 25): 25%

This assignment involves your planning and participation in Calgary Home Movie Day, October 19, 2013. Submitted materials will include a report of activities working on the project as well as a screening report from Home Movie Day. Additional details will be provided in class.

NOTE: This assignment requires attendance at Home Movie Day on Oct. 19, 2013, 12-4 p.m.

Essay Proposal/Annotated Bibliography (Due in class Nov. 22) 10%

3-4 pages, total, which includes a brief (300 words) description of your topic and argument, which outlines the shape your essay will take; AND a 2-3 page annotated bibliography that lists the primary and scholarly sources that you will use and provides a brief (2-3 sentence paragraph) explanation of the relevance of each.

Final Research Project

(Proposal Presented in-class Dec. 6; Final Project Due Dec. 13): 35%

An 8-10 page research essay on an approved topic of the student's choice and related to the course themes and materials. Full details will be provided in Week 8.

All assignments must be completed or a grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Please note: If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will make every

attempt to schedule the final exam during the evening; however, there is NO guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Will be posted on Blackboard.