

Film Studies (Film) 471 – Lecture 01
Experimental Film and Video
Winter 2013
Monday 14:00-15:50; Wednesday 13:00-15:50

Instructor: Dr. Charles Tepperman
Office
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Course Description

The course explores the genre of experimental film and video. Particular emphasis will be given to the history and evolution of works in this genre with attention to Canadian contributions and the impact of digital and new media.

Additional Information

Attendance at both lectures and screenings are essential components of this course. Students must come to class prepared to discuss the films and required reading. Some of the materials and topics presented in class may include explicit content (sex, violence or language).

Objectives of the Course

The objectives of this course are to:

- a) provide an overview of Experimental film and video
- b) identify and analyze key films, movements and filmmakers in Experimental cinema
- c) develop written skills in the stylistic, cultural and critical analysis of films.

Internet and electronic communication device information

This course observes a strict laptop and cell phone policy. Laptops are for note-taking only. Likewise, texting and cell phone use is not permitted during class time: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid embarrassment and annoyance.

Textbooks and Readings:

P. Adams Sitney, *Visionary Film: The American Avant-Garde 1943-2000*, 3rd Edition (New York: Oxford, 2002)

Additional readings available via Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

Class participation (ongoing)

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 analysis/quiz (2 x 10% Feb. 6, April 3)

20%

An in-class writing assignment. Each quiz 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 filmmaker and his/her strategies.

Ten weekly film journal posts (ongoing)

10%

After Wednesday's class, go to the Blackboard site to submit a brief but thoughtful and detailed reflections on the week's films and reading. Responses should be in polished, standard English (no point form or weblang please!), run a paragraph or two in length (approx. 250 words) and focus on a detail or raise a specific issue that you think is worth more attention. You are encouraged to respond (thoughtfully, respectfully) to your classmates' posts, and/or to post additional comments on the discussion board. These responses must be submitted on Blackboard by Friday at noon (no later). To get full marks, you must post 10 weekly journal entries over the course of the semester.

Journal post expansion/essay (Due Feb. 27)

20%

Select one of the blackboard posts you have written so far and expand and revise your discussion into a mini-essay of 4-5 pages in length. The goal here is to provide a more fleshed-out and polished discussion of an aspect of the film you initially commented on.

\$100 Festival film analysis (Due March 18)

10%

An essay 2-3 pages in length that reports on a film (or selection of films) from one of the \$100 Film Festival screening programs. The report should comment on aspects of the formal/stylistic qualities of the film/s, situate them within the screening, and draw on course readings to contextualize the filmmakers' strategies.

NOTE: This assignment requires attendance at one of the \$100 Film Festival screenings: March 7, 8, 9, 2013.

Final research paper (Essay due April 15)

30%

An essay 8-10 pages in length. The paper may be on a topic chosen from a list provided by the instructor, or on a topic of your choice that has been approved by the instructor. Detailed instructions will be provided in Week 10. Students will give a brief presentation of their research topics on the last day of class (April 15).

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://www.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 Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) 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.