Probs In Ant/Ethno Cinema

ANT 450 Section 320
Summer 2014, Seminar
Dr. Matthew Wolfgram

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

Any six credits of anthropology coursework.

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

Devoted to issues not covered in other courses. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 hours.
Do you like movies? Do you like anthropology? This course is a survey of the history of ethnographic cinema. Student in this class will learn this history by viewing important ethnographic films and by discussing and critiquing the visual representation of culture and society in anthropology.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Learn the history of ethnographic cinema
2. Identify the major genres and styles of ethnographic cinema
3. Understand the role of visual recording technology in the history of anthropology
4. Critique the visual representation of culture and society in ethnography cinema

**Required Texts**

**UA Supply Store Textbook Information**

Textbook data from the Supply Store not found for this course.

**READINGS:** All readings will be posted on Blackboard Learn.

**Outline of Topics**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

- **Week 1**

**5/5: Visualizing the other**

Film: In the Land of the Head Hunters (Edward S. Curtis, 1916)


**5/6: Culture and Personality**

Film: Four cultures (Margret Mead)


5/7: The Yanamano

Film: The Ax Fight (Tim Asch, 1975)


5/8: The Marshal Collection

Film: The Hunters (John Marshall, 1957)

Film: A Kalahari Family (John Marshall, 2001)


5/9: Film viewing, on reserve at Gorgas Library

   Film: Holy Ghost People (Peter Adair, 1967)

Film: Jaguar (Jean Rouch, 1955)


Week 2

5/12: Observational Cinema

Film: Titicut Follies (1967, Frederick Wiseman)

5/13: Visual anthropology as cultural critique

Film: Cannibal Tours (Dennis O'Rourke, 1988)


5/14: The film and the world

Film: Alter of Fire (Robert Gardner, 1975)

Film: Forest of Bliss (Robert Gardner, 1986)


5/15: Post-Colonial Cinema

Film: Devi (the Goddess) (Satyajit Ray)


5/16: Film viewing, on reserve at Gorgas Library

FILM: “The split horn: the life of a Hmong Shaman in America”

Film: Through Navajo Eyes (Sol Worth et al.)

Week 3

5/19: Visual Anthropology of diasporas

FILM: “Blue collar and Buddha”


5/20: Collaborations

Film: Through Navajo Eyes (Sol Worth et al.)


5/21: Indigenous media

Film: Kayapo: Out of the Forest (Michael Beckham & Terence Turner)


5/22: Visual anthropology and aesthetics

Film: Doon School Chronicles, 1997-1998 (David MacDougall and Judith MacDougall, 2000)


5/23: Final papers due

Exams and Assignments

- 10% Attendance and participation
10% Presentation and 1 page biography of ethnographic filmmaker. Due on the day we watch the film.
10% Presentation and 1 page summary of one of the assigned readings. Due on the day we discuss the reading in class.
20% (10% per exercise) Two film analysis exercise due in the class following the film viewing
50% (10% per film) Five 2-3 page film review and criticism papers. All are due on the final day of class 5/23.

Emergency Contact Information

UA's primary communication tool for sending out information is through its web site at www.ua.edu. In the event of an emergency, students should consult this site for further directions. Additional course information will be posted using Blackboard Learn.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at http://wvuatv.com/content/weather. WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone.
Check http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

Disability Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: “I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.”

See the Code of Student Conduct for more information.