

Albert G. Nigrin

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Office Hours: Thursday 4-5PM or by appointment

American Experimental Film & Video: A Private View

Instructor: Albert Nigrin

Course #: 01:050:265: Section 1

Dates: Fall 2006 Semester

Day/Time: Tuesday & Thursday 5:35-6:55 PM

Location: Ruth Adams #001, Douglass Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Course Description: A survey course focusing on the history and development of the various American experimental cinema movements from its beginnings to the present. In-depth analyses of the structure and content of films by Andy Warhol, Maya Deren, Stan Brakhage, Sidney Peterson, Kenneth Anger, Bruce Baillie, Yoko Ono, and others. Emphasis on the "mise-en-scene," editing, narrative form, sound, and special effects in the films of these celebrated experimental film/videomakers. Warning: some films may contain nudity, sexual situations, violence, profanity, substance abuse, and disturbing images.

Required Reading: Xerox Packet of Articles -- \$40 (includes Lab Fee for most in-class film/video rentals and licenses) from the instructor between September 5-14, 2006 at the beginning and end of class.

Course Requirements and Grading: Attendance is mandatory. Two Exams [Short Answer/Essay Questions]. Class Participation: 20%; Attendance: 10%; Exam #1: 35%; Exam #2: 35%

Attendance and Absences: I will overlook one absence from class; thus, take your absences seriously. In addition, more than one absence will affect your attendance score and I will be less flexible in considering your overall grade. The opposite also holds true: if your attendance and class participation are consistently strong, you may enhance your final grade.

Exams: You should take careful notes during class; both exams will be based directly on the material we cover in class, the readings assigned, and the films viewed for class. The first exam will cover the first half of the syllabus; the second exam will cover the second half of the syllabus. If you are caught cheating in this course the penalties are as follows: an automatic "F" on that exam, a report to the dean, and other disciplinary actions.

Required Additional Viewing: All students must attend the Rutgers Film Co-op/NJMAC film screenings listed below. Cost= \$5 each screening and you must sign it at the door.

1- From Dada to Surrealism: The Films of Hans Richter on Th-9/14/06 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS.

2- Dreams That Money Can Buy on Th-9/21/06 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS.

3- Institute Benjamenta and Streets of Crocodiles on Fr-Su-9/22-24/06 beginning at 7:00 PM in Scott Hall #123-CAC. Go to one screening on these days.

4- Piano Tuner of Earthquakes on Th-9/28 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS or Fr-Sa-9/29+30/06 beginning at 7:00 PM in Scott Hall #123-CAC. Go to one screening on these days.

5- Performance on Th-10/12/06 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS.

6- Girl on a Motorcycle on Th-10/19/06 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS.

7- Four Figures on Th-11/4/06 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS.

Suggested Reading:

- Anger, Kenneth. **Hollywood Babylon**. New York: Dell Pub., 1974.
- Aranda, Francisco. **Luis Bunuel: A Critical Biography**. Translated and edited by David Robinson. New York: DaCapo Press, 1976.
- Baxter, John. **Bunuel**. New York: Carroll & Graf Pub., 1998.
- Canyon Cinema Catalogs**. San Francisco: Canyon Cinema, 1970-2002.
- Clark, Veve and Millicent Hodson and Catrina Neiman. **The Legend of Maya Deren.. Volume One - Parts 1 & 2**. New York: Anthology Film Archives, 1984.
- Curtis, David. **Experimental Cinema**. New York: Delta Pub., 1971.
- Durgnat, Raymond. **Luis Bunuel**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977.
- Film Culture**. New York: Anthology Film Archives, 1960-present.
- Gidal, Peter. **Andy Warhol: Films and Paintings: The Factory Years**. New York: DaCapo Press, 1991.
- James, David. **Allegories of Cinema**. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.
- ed. Hunter, Jack. **Moonchild: The Films of Kenneth Anger**. NY: Creation Books, 2001.
- Kovacs, Stephen. **From Enchantment To Rage**. Cranbury, NJ: Assoc. University Presses, 1978.
- ed. Kuenzli, Rudolph E. **Dada and Surrealist Film**. New York: Willis Locker & Owens, 1987.
- Landis, Bill. **Anger: The Unauthorized Biography of Kenneth Anger**. New York: Harper Collins, 1995.
- Lawder, Standish. **The Cubist Cinema**. New York: New York University Press, 1975.
- Le Grice Malcolm. **Abstract Film and Beyond**. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1981.
- MacDonald, Scott. **Cinema 16**. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2002.
- MacDonald, Scott. **Critical Cinema I**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982.
- MacDonald, Scott. **Critical Cinema II**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.
- MacDonald, Scott. **Critical Cinema III**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
- Man Ray. **Self-Portrait**. New York: McGraw Hill Pub., 1963.
- Millennium Film Journal**. New York: Millennium Film Workshop, 1970-present.
- ed. Nichols, Bill. **Maya Deren and the American Avant-Garde**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- ed. O'Pray, Michael. **Andy Warhol Film Factory**. London: British Film Institute, 1989.
- Peterson, Sidney. **The Dark of the Screen**. New York: New York University Press, 1980.
- Richter, Hans. **Dada: Art and Anti-Art**. Translated by David Britt. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.
- ed. Sitney, P. Adams. **The Essential Cinema**. New York: New York University Press, 1975.
- Sitney, P. Adams. **The Avant Garde: A Reader of Theory and Criticism**. New York: New York University Press, 1975.
- Sitney, P. Adams. **Visionary Cinema**. New York: New York University Press, 1979.

Syllabus:

- 9/5 Introduction**
- 9/7+12 Precursors - Thomas Edison, Lumiere Brothers, George Melies, Watson and Weber
Films: The Kiss, Lumiere Shorts, A Trip to the Moon, The Fall of the House of Usher**
- 9/12+14 Dada and Cubist Cinema - Man Ray, Marcel Duchamp, Ferd. Leger, Rene Clair
Films: Starfish, Emak Bakia, Ballet Mecanique, Entr'acte**

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Syllabus (continued):

- 9/19+21** Surrealist Cinema - Luis Bunuel/Salvador Dali, Jean Cocteau
Films: An Andalusian Dog, L'Age D'Or and Blood of a Poet (excerpts)
- 9/26+28** The Films of Maya Deren: Part 1
Films: Meshes of the Afternoon, At Land, Ritual In Transfigured Time
- 10/3** No Class
- 10/5** The Films of Maya Deren: Part 2
Films: Meditation on Violence, The Very Eye of Night, etc.
- 10/10** Exam #1
- 10/12+17** Art in Cinema - Willard Maas, Marie Menkin, Sidney Peterson
Films: Geography of the Body, Hurry, Hurry, The Petrified Dog
- 10/19+24** Found Footage - Bruce Conner, Stan VanderBeek
Films: A Movie, Science Friction, etc.
- 10/26+31** Counter Cultural Films
Kenneth Anger and Andy Warhol
Films: Rabbit's Moon, Scorpio Rising, Lucifer Rising, Screentests, etc.
- 11/2+11/7** Stan Brakhage
Films: Mothlight, Creation, Window Water Baby Moving, Prelude Dog Star Man
- 11/9+14** Multi-Layered - Bruce Baillie and Robert Fulton
Films: Mass for the Dakota Sioux, Aleph, Castro St., etc.
- 11/16+28** Structuralist Films
Jordan Belson, Robert Nelson, Paul Sharits, and Chuck Hudina
Films: Music of the Spheres, Bleu Shut, Bicycle, Word Movie/Flux Film
- 11/21+23** No Class
- 11/30** Women's Films - Yoko Ono and Gunvor Nelson
Bottoms, Fly, Take Off
- 12/5** Contemporary Films
Jem Cohen, A.G. Nigrin, etc,
This is the History of NY, Mental Radio, etc.
- 12/7** Exam #2

