

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 2008 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 2-11, 2008 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 Screenings: All students must attend the Rutgers Film Co-op/NJMAC film screenings listed below. Cost= \$6 or \$9 per screening and you must sign the attendance sheet at the door.

1- *Dreams That Money Can Buy* on Th-9/18/08 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS. \$6

2- *L'Atalante* on Th-9/25/08 beginning at 7:30 PM in Ruth Adams #001-DSS. \$6

3- *Idiots and Angels* Fr-Su-9/26-28/08 beginning at 7:00 PM in Scott Hall #123-CAC. Go to one screening on these days. \$9.

4- *Chelsea Girls* on Fr-Su-10/3-5/08 beginning at 7:00 PM in Scott Hall #123-CAC. Go to one screening on these days. \$9.

5- *Beauty #2* and *Outer and Inner Space* on Fr-Su-10/10-12/08 beginning at 7:00 PM in Scott Hall #123-CAC. Go to one screening on these days. \$9.

6- *Cabinet of Dr. Caligari/Creature from the Black Lagoon - In 3D* on Fr-10/31/08 beginning at 7:00 PM in Scott Hall #123-CAC. \$9...\$7 if you go in costume.

7- *Animania 3 Festival* on Sa-Su-11/1-2/08 beginning at 7:00 PM in Scott Hall #123-CAC. Go to one screening on these days. \$9

Nigrin/Experimental Film/page 2

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:

- 9/2 **Introduction**
- 9/4+9 **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
- 9/11+16 **Dada and Cubist Cinema - Man Ray, Marcel Duchamp, Ferd. Leger, Rene Clair**
Films: Starfish, Emak Bakia, Ballet Mecanique, Entr'acte

Syllabus (continued):

- 9/18+23** **Surrealist Cinema - Luis Bunuel/Salvador Dali, Jean Cocteau**
Films: An Andalusian Dog, L'Age D'Or and Blood of a Poet (excerpts)
- 9/25** **The Films of Dean Snider presented by Douglas Katelus**
- 9/29** **The Films of Maya Deren: Part 1**
Films: Meshes of the Afternoon, At Land, Ritual In Transfigured Time
- 10/2** **No Class**
- 10/7** **Exam #1**
- 10/9** **The Films of Maya Deren: Part 2**
Films: Meditation on Violence, The Very Eye of Night, etc.
- 10/14+16** **Art in Cinema - Willard Maas, Marie Menkin, Sidney Peterson**
Films: Geography of the Body, Hurry, Hurry, The Petrified Dog
- 10/21+23** **Found Footage - Bruce Conner, Stan VanderBeek**
Films: A Movie, Science Friction, etc.
- 10/28+30** **Counter Cultural Films**
Kenneth Anger and Andy Warhol
Films: Rabbit's Moon, Scorpio Rising, Lucifer Rising, Chelsea Girls, etc.
- 11/4+11/6** **Stan Brakhage**
Films: Mothlight, Window Water Baby Moving, etc.
- 11/11** **Multi-Layered - Bruce Baillie and Robert Fulton**
Films: Mass for the Dakota Sioux, Aleph, Castro St., etc.
- 11/13** **Structuralist Films**
Jordan Belson, Robert Nelson, and Chuck Hudina
Films: Music of the Spheres, Bleu Shut
- 11/18** **Women's Films - Yoko Ono and Gunvor Nelson**
Bottoms, Fly, Take Off
- 11/20+25** **No Class**
- 12/2** **Contemporary Films**
Jem Cohen, A.G. Nigrin, etc,
This is the History of NY, Mental Radio, etc.
- 12/4** **Exam #2**
- 12/9** **No Class**