Special Topics In American Studies: American Film Directors
Course #: 01: 050: 301: 03
Dates: Spring 2010
Day/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:35-6:55PM with screenings on select Thursdays from 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 PM and other additional required viewings. Location: Ruth Adams Building #001, Douglass Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Course Description:
Warning: some films may contain nudity, sexual situations, violence, profanity, substance abuse, and disturbing images.

Course Objective:
By the end of this course students will have a better understanding of film analysis and will be able to apply this understanding to other films they see by these and other acclaimed filmmakers.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Attendance is mandatory. Two exams and one quiz[Short Answer/Essay Questions].
Class Participation: 15%
Attendance: 10%
Exam #1: 25%
Exam #2: 25%
Quiz #1: 25%

Required Additional Viewings:
All students must attend the Rutgers Film Co-op/NJMAC film screenings listed below. Cost= $9 per screening and you must sign the attendance sheet at the door.
1- ANTICHRIST - Friday-Sunday, January 22-24 at 7:00 PM in Voorhees Hall #105-CAC. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Go to one screening on these days!
2 – The Magnificent Ambersons and Cat People - Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 PM in Ruth Adams Building 001-DSS, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
3- Animania 5 Friday-Saturday, January 29-31 at 7:00 PM in Voorhees Hall #105-CAC. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Go to one screening on these days!
4 – Pull My Daisy and Precious – Thursday, February 4 at 7:00 PM in Ruth Adams Building 001-DSS, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
5 – Films By Stan Brakhage – Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 PM in Ruth Adams Building 001-DSS, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
6 – U.S. Super 8 Film and DV Festival - Friday-Saturday, February 19-21 at 7:00 PM in Voorhees Hall #105-CAC. Go to one screening on these days.
7 – Seconds – Thursday, February 25 at 7:00 PM in Ruth Adams Building 001-DSS, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Required Reading:
Xerox Packet of Articles/Lab Fee - Available only from the instructor. Cost: $40 (cash or check made payable to the Rutgers Film Co-op/NJMAC) includes xeroxed reading materials and select in-class film/video rentals/licenses. After you see a film you should automatically read the section in the Xerox packet that focuses on that particular film. I also encourage you to do your own research on films you especially find of interest.

Attendance and Absences:
Attendance is mandatory; thus, take your absences seriously. In addition, one absence will affect your attendance grade 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 and during the film screenings; both exams will be based directly on the material we cover and our class discussions, as well as the readings assigned. The first exam will cover the first third of the syllabus. The second exam will cover the second third of the syllabus. The quiz will cover third third of the syllabus.

American Film Directors Syllabus:
January 19+21+26 – Orson Welles and Val Lewton Introductions
January 28+ February 2+4 – Orson Welles’s The Magnificent Ambersons
February 9+11 – Val Lewton/Jacques Tourneur’s Cat People, Films by Stan Brakhage
February 16 – No Class
February 18+23 – Maya Deren’s Meshes of the Afternoon, At Land, Ritual in Transfigured Time, Films by Marie Menken
February 25 – **Exam #1**, John Frankenheimer’s *Seconds*

March 2 + 4 – John Frankenheimer’s *Seconds*, Russ Meyer’s *Faster Pussycat Kill! Kill!*

March 9 – **Exam #2**

March 11, 16, 18 – **No Class Spring Break**

March 23 + 25 + 30 + April 1 – Russ Meyer’s *Faster Pussycat Kill! Kill!*; Stanley Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey*

April 6 – **No Class**

April 8 +13 – David Lynch’s *Eraserhead*

April 15 + 20 – Harold Ramis’s *Groundhog Day*

April 22 + 27 – David Lynch’s *Mulholland Drive*

April 29 – **Quiz #1**