

**Filmst 113-Intro to Experimental Film -Syllabus**

Santa Barbara City College  
Spring 2008

Instructor:  
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Chair, Multimedia Arts and Technologies

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INTRO: This class is an introductory course on film, analyzing the stylistic and thematic tendencies of a wide range of representative cinema. We will examine techniques, theories, genres and the "language" of this art form. Emphasis will be on the relationship between cinematic techniques and thematic intentions, the form and function of the filmic space.

SITE: [http://soma.sbcc.edu/users/davega/FILMST\\_113/](http://soma.sbcc.edu/users/davega/FILMST_113/)

TEXT: ***Movement as Meaning in Experimental Film*** by Daniel Barnett (ISBN 9042023856)

ASSIGNMENTS/ TESTS: Class work will consist of:

1. Mini - Essays 50pts per/ [300pts]
2. Punishment Pop Quizzes. 2 50pts per/[100pts]
3. Midterm- Multiple choice, fill in the blank, short essay. [50pts]
4. Final exam- Multiple choice, essay. [50pts]
5. Participation/Attendance- Participation during class discussion/lecture is expected. [100pts]
6. Extra Credit- Organized/well kept note book on films/lectures [100pts]

TOTAL=500pts

GRADES: Grades will be based on attendance, participation and all the assigned written work (i.e. assignments, papers, midterms and final exam). The quizzes, midterms and final exams will be based on class lectures, assigned reading and the scheduled films. Poor attendance will result in being dropped from the class or a lowering of your grade.. If you miss 3 unexcused class meetings, your grade will be dropped an entire grade. To be counted present you must be here the ENTIRE class meeting. Late papers will NOT be accepted. Plagiarism will result in an automatic failure.

EXTRA CREDIT: A learning log which records impression questions and interpretation of the assigned films as well as responses. The learning log should also contain summaries of all of the assigned reading and lecture notes. This should be legible or typed.

Schedule of Films and Chapter Readings: (dates may change / films subject to change)

- Week 1: Jan/Feb.
- 26 LECTURE: Introduction. Realism vs Formalism. Film Terms/History  
FILM: Dickson Experimental Sound Film/ Muybridge Studies /Baraka (Fricke 1992)  
TEXT: Handouts on Dickson/ Handouts Baraka/ Movement pgs: Foreward and Preface
- 28 LECTURE: Realism/ Image as Placeholder of Authority  
Film Movements/ History  
FILM: Baraka (Fricke 1992) / Chelovek s kinoapparatom (Vertov 1929)  
TEXT: Handout Vertov Bio/Review/ Movement Section 18
- Week 2: Feb.
- 2 LECTURE: Experimental film as traditions. Film Mechanics/ Materials/ Gauges/ 3 Phases of Production/ 3 Phases of Business/ etc. How experimental sits outside the process and  
FILM: / Finish from Chelovek s kinoapparatom (Vertov, 1929),  
/ Avante Garde Films of the 20's and 30's  
TEXT: Handout on History of Experimental Cinema/Movement Section 5  
ASSIGNMENT: Mini-Essay #1
- 4 LECTURE: France 1919-30/Dada and Surrealism/Man Ray, Léger & Murphy, Dali/Duchamp, Clair  
FILM: Un Chien Andalou (Dali and Bunuel 1929)/ Ballet Machanique, Entre' Act, Viking Egging Diagonale  
TEXT: Handout on Ballet Mechanique/ Movement Section 16.
- Week 3: Feb.
- 9 LECTURE: Legacy of Dada/Surrealism/ Gondry/ Lynch  
FILM: Music Videos -Chris Cunningham, Michel Gondry/ Eraser Head, Science of Sleep  
TEXT: Bio Gondry/Lynch/Movement Section 33
- 11 LECTURE: cont.  
FILM: Science of Sleep  
TEXT: Movement Section 28  
ASSIGNMENT: Mini-Essay #2
- Week 4: Feb.
- 16 **WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY**
- 18 LECTURE: U.S. 1940s Maya Deren and legacy of Surrealism  
FILM: Meshes of The Afternoon/ Deren Compilation (Maya Deren, 1943)  
TEXT: Maya Deren Bio/Meshes Essay/Movement Sections 19 and 21
- Week 5: Feb.
- 23 LECTURE: Purist/Abstract Cinema/Cinema as Object  
FILM: Oskar Fischinger Animation/Fantasia  
TEXT: Handouts on Fischinger/Movement Section 39
- 25 LECTURE: Purist/Abstract Cinema/Cinema as Object/ Cinema

as Commerce  
FILM: Jordon Belson Compilation, Stan Brakage, Ruttmann, Ritchter, Rob Tyler Colors and Modulations  
TEXT: Handouts on Jordon Belson and Stan Brakage/  
Movement Section 42.

Week 6: Mar.	2	LECTURE: Experimental Narrative FILM: <u>The Red Ballon, An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge, Soy Cuba</u> TEXT: Handouts on Red Ballon and Owl Creek/ Movement Section 48 ASSIGNMENT: Mini-Essay #3
	4	LECTURE: Experimental Narrative FILM: <u>Gummo</u> TEXT: Harmony Korin/Gummo
Week 7: Mar.	9	LECTURE: Experimental Animation- Lye, McLaren, Herzfeld FILM: Films Comp of McClaren <u>Neibors, Paux de Dues Canadian National Film Board Animation</u> (Norman McLaren) TEXT: Handouts on Lye, McLaren, Hertzfeldt./ Movement Section 57
	11	LECTURE: Experimental Animation- Lye, McLaren, Herzfeld FILM: <u>Compilation – Hertzfeldt.</u> TEXT: Handouts on Lye, McLaren, Hertzfeldt.
Week 8: Mar.	16	MIDTERM REVIEW FILM: <u>Aeon Flux Compilation</u> ASSIGNMENT: Mini Essay #4
	18	<b>MIDTERM</b> FILM: <u>Aeon Flux Compilation</u>
Week 9: Mar.	23	LECTURE: Chris Marker/French Newwave FILM: <u>La Jetee</u> (Marker, 1963), Discussion of <u>La Jetee French New Wave/ Excerpts from 12 Monkeys/ Breathless</u> TEXT: French New Wave Handouts
	25	LECTURE: French New Wave History FILM: <u>Breathless/Jules and Jim/ Sans Solei</u> (Chris Marker), Bill Viola TEXT: Movement Section 59
Week 10: Mar/Apriil	30	<b>SPRING BREAK (March 31<sup>st</sup>- April 5th)</b>
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Week 11: April.	6	LECTURE: American New Wave FILM: "Decade Under the Influence" 1 Excerpts from <u>Shadows (Cassevettes 1961).</u> TEXT: American New Wave Handouts/ Movement Section 50

	8	LECTURE: American New Wave FILM: <u>Badlands/The Conversation</u> Malick/Copolla TEXT: American New Wave Handouts – Malick Handouts
Week 12: April.	13	LECTURE: Andy Warhol and Film Art FILM: <u>Blowjob, Empire, Bikeboy, Chelsea Girls</u> TEXT: Handouts on Warhol and Structurlism/ Movement Section 54 ASSIGNMENT: Mini- Essay #5
.	15	LECTURE: Flux Group, Ant Farm Group FILM: <u>Fluxus Films, Ant Farm, Cadillac Ranch, Media Burn</u> TEXT: Handouts on Fluxus and Ant Farm/ Movement Section 55
Week 13: April.	20	LECTURE: American Avanta Garde in the 40's/50's/Maya Deren/ Kenneth Anger, etc.
	22	LECTURE: Video Art and Academia FILM: <u>Viola, Wegman, Laurie Anderson, Naim June Paik Cremaster and No Restraint</u> -Mathew Barney TEXT: Handouts
Week 14: April.	27	LECTURE: Montage/Experimental Documentary FILM: <u>Russian Ark, Le Age de Or, Pawanaquatsi, Naquatsi, Swimming to Cambodia</u> TEXT: Russian Ark Handout/ Bunuel ASSIGNMENT: Mini- Essay #6
	29	LECTURE: Experimental Documentary FILM: <u>In this World (Winterbottom 2002)/Zero de Conduite Grizzlyman/ Nannook of the North</u> TEXT: Handout Nanook of the North
Week 15 May.	4	LECTURE: Post Monderism FILMS: <u>Compilations Norman McLaren/Zbig Rybcynski</u> TEXT: Handout Norman McLaren/Zbig Rybzynski
	6	LECTURE: Moderisms vs. Post-Moderism FILM: <u>The Brothers Quay/Jan Svankmajer/ Charles and Ray Aames</u> TEXT: Movement Section 60
Week 16 May	11	LECTURE: Post- Moderism FILM: <u>Rose Hobard/Tribulation 99</u> TEXT: NONE
	13	<b>REVIEW FINAL</b>
Week 17 May.	18	<b>FINAL</b> A211 – 5:15 pm/Turn in Notebook (Bring small blue book)