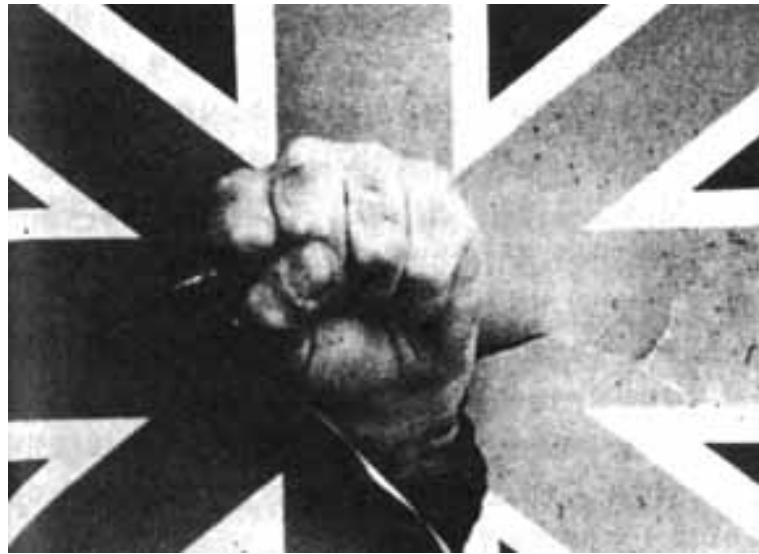


FILM 408
AVANT-GARDE/INDEPENDENT FILM AND VIDEO
CRN 10208



British Sounds

Staff

Co-ordinator: Dr Russell Campbell, Room 311, 83 Fairlie Terrace, ph 463 6824, email russell.campbell@vuw.ac.nz. Office hours will be posted.

Class times and venue

Second trimester. Wed, Fri, 10-1. Film Room (205), 77 Fairlie Terrace.

Course aims, content and objectives

A study of experimental and non-mainstream work in film and video. Subjects will range from the surrealist cinema of Buñuel and Dali to the American avant-garde and the contemporary ultra-low-budget digital feature. Analysis will seek to interrogate the aesthetic underpinnings of alternative cinema practices and evaluate the works in the light of their challenge to the formal conventions of the commercial motion picture. On completion of the course students should have an enhanced understanding of avant-garde/independent film practices in their historical and aesthetic dimensions, and have gained detailed knowledge of particular filmmakers and filmic approaches through research for assignments.

Texts

Required

FILM 408 course notes available from Student Notes (\$54.80)

Recommended

A.L. Rees, *A History of Experimental Film and Video: From the Canonical Avant-Garde to Contemporary British Practice* (London: BFI, 1999) (\$52.95)

Workload

The university anticipates that you should be able to devote at least 20 hours per week to a one-trimester 30-point course at Honours level. Therefore you should probably expect to spend, on average, about 14 hours per week (apart from class time) in reading, viewing films, essay writing and preparing seminars.

Assessment

All assessment will be internal. There is no final examination. Details of each assignment will be given in class. The three assignments are:

- a critique (2000 words) comprising exposition of and critical commentary on one of the course readings, due date Fri 4 Aug, 10 am (25%).
- an essay/seminar on an avant-garde movement, aesthetic approach, or theoretical issue, due date (no later than 22 Sep) to be agreed (40%). The essay should be 3000-4000 words in length, and is to be presented in a class seminar of 60-90 minutes. In assessing this assignment, the essay will be weighted 75% and the seminar presentation 25%.
- a seminar (60-90 minutes), due date to be agreed, on a filmmaker or group of filmmakers working in the avant-garde/independent field, accompanied by written notes (750 words minimum) (35%).

Film Honours students should note that assessment for particular courses is provisional pending consideration of the student's coursework as a whole and external moderation.

If you wish to ask for an extension on your critique (e.g. because of pressure of work) please do so well before the due date. Seminar presentation dates are final once they have been agreed. If circumstances arise which may prevent you from presenting your seminar on the assigned date, please inform the course co-ordinator urgently. Essays should be submitted on the day of the seminar unless it has been agreed otherwise. Except in special circumstances (e.g. medical reasons with certificate), assignments handed in late may lose up to 10%. *No work will be accepted more than two weeks after the due date unless specific prior arrangements have been made, or after 27 October.* Aegrotat provisions may apply if you are unable to submit your final assignment. In such a case you should contact the course co-ordinator.

The assignments are designed to help fulfil the aims of the course by stimulating students to examine theoretical and critical writing on the subject of avant-garde/independent film thoroughly, to research in depth particular aspects of alternative filmmaking, and to present their findings with lucid and compelling arguments both in written form and in seminars with audiovisual illustration.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Eligibility to pass the course is dependent on a high standard of attendance (normally at least 75%) as well as completion of all assignments.

School Facilities

Students are encouraged to make full use of the Robert Lord Library at 77FT; however, please note that **library materials do not leave the building**. There is a coin-operated photocopy machine on Level 3. Videos from the Film Video Library collection may be viewed in the Video Viewing Area (85FT/106). Instructions on how to access these videos will be given in class. The Green Room is also available to students working in the building. You are expected to clean up after yourself, including returning to the Green Room any mugs removed from there.

Award

The Prize for Film Studies, arising from a fund established by the Wai-te-Ata Press, will be awarded to the best student of film history, criticism or production in FILM courses.

Acknowledgments

Assistance from the NZ Federation of Film Societies and the New Zealand Film Archive is gratefully acknowledged. Students are urged to join the Wellington Film Society.

Communication

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and posted on the course noticeboard on Level 3, 77FT.

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Note: This programme is indicative only and will be modified to accommodate student seminar topic preferences and possibly visits by filmmakers.

| | Wed 10-1 | Fri 10-1 |
|-----|---|--|
| JUL | 12 Introduction; Theory of the Avant-Garde Dada Progenitors: Méliès, Hepworth, Cohl, Eggeling, Richter, Ray, Clair, Keaton.... | 14 1920s Abstract Film + McCay, Durand, Starewicz, Léger, Duchamp |
| | 19 Montage Richter, Vertov Man with a Movie Camera (USSR, 1929) | 21 Surrealism Ray, Dulac, Buñuel L'Âge d'or (France, 1930) |
| | 26 Jean Cocteau Cinema Le Sang d'un poète (France, 1931) Fairthorne & Salt, H Smith, Whitney, Belson | 28 Abstract Animation, Direct Lye, Fischinger, McLaren, Brakhage, |
| AUG | 2 Maya Deren | 4 Kenneth Anger |
| | 9 Stan Brakhage Menken, Lynch | 11 Underground Film Breer, Conner, VanDerBeek, Genet, Mekas, Baillie, Kuchar, |
| | 16 Andy Warhol | 18 Formalism Conrad, Landow, Snow, Sharits, Gehr, Frampton |

 ----- MID-TRIMESTER BREAK -----

| | Wed 10-1 | Fri 10-1 |
|-----|---|---|
| SEP | 6 <i>Jean-Luc Godard</i> British Sounds (UK, 1969) | 8 <i>Feminism</i> Akerman, Hammer, Friedrich |
| | 13 <i>Hans Jurgen Syberberg</i> Hitler: A Film From Germany (W Germany, 1977, excerpts) | 15 <i>Jan Svankmajer</i> |
| | 20 <i>Bette Gordon</i> Variety (USA, 1983) | 22 <i>Derek Jarman</i> The Last of England (UK, 1987) |
| | 27 <i>Trinh T. Minh-ha</i> Surname Viet Given Name Nam (USA, 1989) | 29 <i>Tracey Moffatt</i> BeDevil (Australia, 1993) |
| OCT | 4 <i>New Zealand Avant-Garde</i> | 6 <i>Video Down Under</i> |
| | 11 <i>Contemporary International Avant-Garde</i> <i>'OneDotZero'</i> NZ, 2005) | 13 <i>Aro Valley Digital</i> Little Bits of Light (Walker, |

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean of your faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely.

Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Co-ordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

Telephone: 463-6070

Email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, the following staff members will either help you directly or quickly put you in contact with someone who can.

| | Staff member | Location |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| FHSS | Dr Allison Kirkman | Murphy Building, room 407 |
| Law | Kirstin Harvey | Old Govt Building, room 103 |
| Science, and Architecture and Design | Liz Richardson | Cotton Building, room 150 |
| Commerce and Administration | Colin Jeffcoat | Railway West Wing, room 119 |
| Kaiwawao Maori | Liz Rawhiti | Old Kirk, room 007 |
| Manaaki Pihipihinga | Melissa Dunlop | 14 Kelburn Pde, room 109D |
| Victoria International | Matthias Nebel | Rutherford House, room 206 |

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services.

Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

Email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building:

Telephone 463 6983 or 463 6984

Email: education@vuwsa.org.nz.



BeDevil