

FILM 408 Avant-Garde/Independent Film and Video

Trimester 1 2012

5 March to 4 July 2012

30 Points



Kenneth Anger

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 5 March to 8 June 2012

Mid-trimester break: 6 to 22 April 2012

Study week: 11 to 15 June 2012

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Coordinator: Dr Russell Campbell, Room 107, 85 Fairlie Terrace.

Email russell.campbell@vuw.ac.nz Phone 934 1377.

Office hours: Tues 2-3 or by appointment.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures/Seminars/Screenings

Day	Time	Room Number
Mon	1:10-5:00	Room 108, 85 Fairlie Terrace

COURSE DELIVERY

The course will comprise a mixture of staff and student seminars, along with screenings. Students will be expected to be well prepared for classes and to take an active part in discussion.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information, or changes to the course, will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

COURSE PRESCRIPTION

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.

COURSE CONTENT

Precise course content will to some extent be determined by students' choice of topic for their seminars. In addition to material specified in the timetable, subjects studied may include gay, feminist and political thematics in experimental filmmaking, and directors such as Jean-Luc Godard, Hans-Jürgen Syberberg, Jan Svankmajer, Chantal Akerman, Barbara Hammer, Derek Jarman, Yvonne Rainer, Sally Potter, David Lynch, Trinh T. Minh-ha, Tracey Moffatt and Campbell Walker.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the course students should have an enhanced understanding of avant-garde/independent film practices in their historical and aesthetic dimensions, have gained detailed knowledge of particular filmmakers and filmic approaches through research for assignments and attendance in class seminars, and improved their oral and written communication skills.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

READINGS

Essential texts:

FILM 408 student notes (Required Readings) available from Vicbooks (\$22.90).

Recommended Reading:

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

Postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

- a critique (2000 words) comprising exposition of and critical commentary on one of the required readings, due date Friday 23 March, 1 pm (25%).
- a seminar (50-60 minutes), due date to be agreed (Monday 23 April, 30 April, or 7 May), on a filmmaker or group of filmmakers working in the avant-garde/independent field, accompanied by written notes (750 words minimum) (35%).
- a seminar/essay on an aspect of avant-garde history or aesthetics (40% total). The seminar (50-60 minutes, 10%) is to be presented on Monday 14 May, 21 May or 28 May. The essay (3000-4000 words, 30%), on which the seminar is based, is due on or before Friday 1 June, 1 pm.

The assignments are designed to deepen students' understanding of avant-garde/independent film practices, to gain detailed knowledge of particular filmmakers' work, and to enhance their written and oral communication skills. The criteria for marking will be adequacy of research, cogency of argument, and clarity of expression.

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

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker. No work will be accepted more than two weeks after the due date,

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible to pass this course you must:

- Submit the specified written work on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Deliver your seminars on the agreed dates (subject to revision in case of illness or other emergency)
- Attend at least 8 of the 11 classes.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 5 Mar Introduction; Theory of the Avant-Garde / Progenitors

Week 2 12 Mar 1920s Abstract Film + Dada / Surrealism
1st SEMINAR PREFERENCES due 1 pm, 16 Mar

Week 3 19 Mar Montage; *Man with a Movie Camera* / Abstract Animation, Direct Cinema
CRITIQUE ASSIGNMENT due 1 pm, 23 Mar

Week 4 26 Mar Jean Cocteau; *Le Sang d'un poète* / Maya Deren
2nd SEMINAR/ESSAY PREFERENCES due 1 pm, 30 Mar

Week 5 2 Apr Kenneth Anger / Stan Brakhage

Mid Trimester Break: Friday 6 April to Sunday 22 April 2012

Week 6 23 Apr Student Seminars
1st SEMINAR to be given 23 Apr, 30 Apr or 7 May

Week 7 30 Apr Student Seminars

Week 8 7 May *tba* / Student Seminars

Week 9 14 May Student Seminars
2nd SEMINAR to be given 14, 21 or 28 May

Week 10 21 May Student Seminars

Week 11 28 May Aro Valley Digital / Student Seminars
ESSAY due 1 pm, 1 Jun

Week 12 4 Jun QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY: NO CLASS