Films!

Yes, you can complete the entire course online from any computer!

Visual Anthropology

ANTH 313

SUMMER I 2015

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Description

Anthropology is a word-driven discipline. However, “it has tended to ignore the visual-pictorial world perhaps because of distrust of the ability of images to convey abstract ideas” (Ruby, 1996). Visual anthropology is today one of the most rapidly growing sub-field in cultural anthropology. This course will consider the problems of representation; problems particular to visual media as well as problems of representation per se. Culture is manifested through visible symbols embedded in gestures, ceremonies, ritual performances, and artifacts situated in constructed and natural environments, from cave paintings to museum displays. The use of these visual aspects conveys and shapes anthropological knowledge.

This course focuses on a critical examination of ethnographic films, beginning with early documentaries and extending to more contemporary examples and photography. The ongoing explosion of technology in the area of visual representation – including digital cameras, handy-cams, digital editing programs for computers, the television and the Internet – holds exciting potential for ethnography. Nevertheless, this course is not meant to be a hands-on production course. There are two sides to visual anthropology: reception (the study of visual imagery) and production (the creation of ethnographic visual imagery). Students will be introduced to the history of visual anthropology and ethnographic film, as well as contemporary developments that have widened the possibilities of visual anthropology beyond its early confines as a tool for illustration.

The main purpose of this course is to develop a critical awareness of the implications of who represents who to whom, and how. This will be accomplished through a combination of readings in visual anthropology, the screening of selected films, and discussions.
**Course material**
All the readings listed in the syllabus for each session will be posted in Resources. In addition, each week's topic will be accompanied by a PowerPoint—converted into PDF file—which may contain (required) additional textual information. **Exams can be taken from any computer without visiting any test proctoring services.**

**Class participation**
Students are required to *login regularly to the online class site*. The instructor will monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as Forums/Blogs. The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper "netiquette" when interacting with class members and the instructor.

**Policy on Laulima unavailability or other technical difficulties**
In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the "Intro to Laulima" file posted on "Announcements."
The Outreach College is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, **students should immediately report any problem using the "Request Assistance" link** at the bottom of any page in Laulima; help@hawaii.edu is for general ITS Help Desk and it is more useful for general technical questions. In both cases, you should immediately send a copy of your report to me using Laulima, or directly at guido@hawaii.edu.

**Communications**
**Interaction with the Instructor**: the instructor will communicate with students mainly using the Laulima built-in mailtool. Students may send personal concerns or questions to the instructor using regular email. The instructor will reply to student personal messages or discussion board messages within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

**Course requirements and evaluation**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Film blogs (6x15pts. each)</td>
<td>(90pts.)</td>
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<td>Exams (2x100pts. each)</td>
<td>(200pts.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film review</td>
<td>(60pts.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film project</td>
<td>(50pts)</td>
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**Total**: 400pts.
Film blogs
Each week students are encouraged to record their reflections evoked by readings, films and class discussions. Each week a discussion topic will be posted in Forums on Laulima. Each member of the class must post a (minimum) three paragraph comment. After 7 days the blog will be automatically locked, and no more postings will be accepted.

Quizzes
The 2 quizzes are not multiple-choice. Each quiz will pose five short essay questions covering the weekly readings. Each quiz is timed (1:15) and can be accessed only one time within the scheduled time window (Monday 7:30am—Sunday 11:59pm).

Film review
Choose one film from those listed in the syllabus. The films indicating:
- Laulima
- iTunesU
INSTALL iTunes  http://www.apple.com/itunes
LOG IN with your UH username and password into iTunesU at http://www.hawaii.edu/itunesu
CLICK on "Courses" you'll see the
SELECT “Manoa ANTH 313 (G. Pigliasco)”
FOR ASSISTANCE click Request Assistance on the bottom right of the page.

1. Develop a clearly discernible thesis; do not merely summarize the film;
2. Cite a minimum of 1-2 different concepts from the course;
3. Min. 4 pages, double space, including references;
4. Submit it using your Laulima Drop Box (no emails);
5. Due by JUN 28 5 point deduction per day for late submissions.

Film project
CLICK on  http://granadacentre.co.uk
SELECT one film project from the Granada Centre for Visual Anthropology current list or archive.
Imagine to be working on this production together with the Granada student filmmaker. Making use of examples, theories, and ideas from this course and readings briefly discuss:
- What did you like or not like about the Granada student filmmaker’s film?
- Which anthropological concepts do you think the student is trying to convey?
- Which anthropological concepts would you suggest to be addressed or expanded in the film?
- Which theoretical and cinematic suggestions would you give the student to achieve these goals?
  1. Develop a clearly discernible thesis; do not merely summarize the film synopsis.
  2. Cite a minimum of 1-2 different concepts from the course;
  3. Min. 4 pages, double space, including references;
  4. Submit it using your Laulima Drop Box (no emails);
  5. Due on JUN 28 5 point deduction per day for late submissions.
| Week 1 | May 26—31 | **Ways of looking**  
Mead, “Visual Anthropology in a Discipline of Words” pp. 3-12  
Pink, “A visual anthropology for the twenty-first century” pp. 131-144 |
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<td><strong>Films</strong></td>
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| Man With the Movie Camera (iTunesU)  
Trance and Dance in Bali (iTunesU) |
| Week 2 | Jun 01—07 | **Ethnographic film -Part I: In search of vérité**  
Ruby, “The Aggie Must Come First: Robert Flaherty’s Place in Ethnographic Film History” pp.67-93.  
| **Films** |
| Nanook of the North (iTunesU)  
Les Maîtres Fous (iTunesU) |
| Week 3 | Jun 08—14 | **Ethnographic film -Part II: Anthropological cinema**  
| **Films** |
| The Hunters (Laulima / Week 3)  
The Ax Fight (PREVIEW) (Laulima / Week 3) |
| Week 4 | Jun 15—21 | **Visual ethics**  
Ruby, “The Ethics of Image Making; or, ‘They’re Going to Put Me in the Movies. They Are Going to Make a Big Star Out of Me’ ” pp. 137-49  
Pink, 2006 Interdisciplinary Agendas: (re)situating Visual Anthropology pp. 21-38 |
| **Films** |
| Interview with David MacDougall - Part I (Laulima / Week 4)  
Interview with David MacDougall - Part II (Laulima / Week 4) |
Jun 22—28  Seeing and being seen
Lutkehaus, “‘Excuse Me, Everything is Not All Right’: on Ethnography, Film and Representation” pp. 422-437

Films  *Cannibal Tours* (iTunesU)
*Reassemblage* (iTunesU)

Jun 28  FILM REVIEW & FILM PROJECT DUE!

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Jun 29—Jul 02  Indigenous media
Ginsburg, “Native Intelligence: A Short History of Debates on Indigenous Media and Ethnographic Film”? pp. 234—255.
Christen, “Gone Digital: Aboriginal Remix and the Cultural Commons” pp. 315-345

Films  *The Land Has Eyes* (Pear ta ma 'on maf) *(Laulima / Week 6)*
*Atanarjuat The Fast Runner* *(Laulima / Week 6)*

ATTENTION! THIS LAST WEEK IS VERY SHORT DUE TO 4th of JULY HOLIDAY
YOUR LAST EXAM WILL BE OPEN FROM FRIDAY JUNE 26 TILL THURSDAY JULY 02

EXAM 2