SC 388  Culture Through Film
Spring 2014
Wednesday 3:00 to 6:00PM
O’Neil 211

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About the course
This course is about the construction of realities. It explores many of the social issues of our times. Why do we think the way we do? How do people’s concepts of reality influence the ways they behave? Portions of this course may be disturbing or sad. Sometimes, you will see yourselves and may not like what you see. You may find that you leave the course less sure about concepts you have not previously questioned.

All of the films have been chosen to be interesting as well as provocative. Wherever possible, feature films have been used. The readings have been carefully chosen to complement the films. Since the course meets once a week to view and discuss the films, it is critical that you read the assigned material before class.

Each week, we will identify what is anthropologically interesting about the films.

Requirements
You must attend class each week. The films are on reserve at the circulation desk in the library. Since the course is more than watching a film, when you miss class, you miss the discussion that develops a sometimes different understanding of the topic. Be careful.

You are required to prepare a two page, double-spaced paper each week on an assigned topic. The paper topics are listed at the end of this syllabus. The paper is due in class. If your paper is late, you will lose twenty percentage points and the rewrite option. Late papers may be turned into my mailbox in McGuinn 426 within one week of the due date.

You have a rewrite option if you handed the paper in on time and if you attended the relevant class. If you rewrite, you will receive the higher grade.

Cell phones are to be turned off. No texting.

Computers are for note taking. No internet or games.
Grading
There are thirteen papers. The paper assignment sheet is included at the end of the syllabus.

Attendance
Attendance is required. There is a bonus for attendance. If you miss one class, your lowest paper grade will be dropped. If you miss no classes, your lowest two paper grades will be dropped. This is a substantial bonus: don’t miss it. There are no excuses for missing a class. This is a bonus, not a penalty.

If you have more than three unexcused absences, you will receive an F. No senior Spring.

Attendance will be taken after the break. You do not get credit for attendance if you do not stay for the discussion.

Study guides
There is a study guide for each week of the course included in the reader. The weekly study guide is part of the assigned reading.

Readings
The readings have been gathered into a course pack. A copy is on reserve in the library. Read the assignment each week before the film. The readings will be part of the discussion.

Lesson Plan
Week 1 (1-15-14) Truth and Reality

Film: Rashomon (1959: 87 minutes) PL801. K8 R382

Reader: Heider 73-81

Paper #1 - Rashomon - due 1-22-14

Week 2 (1-22-14) Discourse

Film: Pleasantville (1999: 124 min) PN1997. P5785

Reader: Mills 6-22

Paper #2 - Discourse - due 1-29-14
**Week 3 (1-29-14) Justice**

Film: **Meat Fight** (1974: 8 minutes) DT1058.K86 M43  
**The Cows of Dolo Pave** (1970: 32 minutes) GN655. L5 D65  
**Stranger with a Camera** (2000: 58 minutes) HN79. K4 S77

Reader: Marcus 137-141, Metcalf 83-87

**Paper #3 - Justice - due 2-5-14**

**Week 4 (2-5-14) Race and the Cultural Construction of Difference**

**Skin Deep** (1996: 53 minutes) LA229. S65

Reader: McIntosh 163-168, Divakaruni 35-56, Santiago 3-5

**Paper #4 – Race due 2-12-14**

**Week 5 (2-12-14) Gender**

Film: **One True Thing** (1999: 128 minutes) PS3567. U336 O54

Reader: Hochschild 11-32

**Paper #5 – Gender – due 2-19-14**

**Week 6 (2-19-14) Sexual Orientation**

Film: **Two Spirit People** (1995: 16 minutes) SC388.P2  
**The Times of Harvey Milk** (1984: 87 minutes) HQ76.8. U5 T56

Reader: Lang 202-217

**Paper #6 - Sexual Orientation – due 2-26-14**
**Week 7 (2-26-14) What Does It Mean To Be A Man?**


*Kinky Boots* raises questions about male gender roles and sexuality. Watch what happens to Dan and Charlie as they come full face with who they are.

Reader: Kimmel 116-120

**Paper #7 - What Does It Mean To Be A Man? – due 3-12-14**

**Week 8 (3-12-14) Indigenous Social Resistance**


Reader: Manne 1-5, Johnston 1-2

**Paper #8 – Indigenous Rights – due 3-19-14**

**Week 9 (3-19-14) Marriage**


Reader: Nanda 196-204, Lahira 1-21

**Paper #9 – Marriage – due 3-26-14**

**Week 10 (3-26-14) Orientalism: A View from the Other Side**

Film: *Edward Said on Orientalism* (1999: 31 minutes) SC388.P1  
*Peace of Mind: Coexistence Through the Eyes of Palestinian and Israeli Youth* (1999: 56 minutes) JZ5579. P43

Reader: Said 1-9, Barsamin 52-57, Reinhart 1-7, Meital 1-10

**Paper #10 – Orientalism – due 4-2-14**
Week 11 (4-2-14)  Identity – Real or Imagined
Film: The Other Son (2012: 105 min) PN1997.2 O844
Reader: Nagel 6-7, 37-45, Andersen 80-85

Paper #11 – Identity – due 4-9-14

Week 12 (4-9-14)  Deconstructing the Hegemonic Discourse
Film: Merry Christmas (2005: 116 min) PN1993.5. F7 J69
Reader: Currie 48-52

Paper #12 – Deconstruction – due 4-16-14  This paper is required.

Week 13 (4-16-14) Mental Retardation
Film: I Am Sam (2002: 134 minutes) HV1553. I3
Reader: Seagull 493-500, Wedding 137-144

Paper #13 - Retardation - due 4-23-14

Week 14 (4-23-14) Overdetermination
Film: The Butterfly Effect (2004: 120 minutes) PN1997.2. B88
Reader: Gleich 11-31, web – Chaos Theory 1-6, web - overdetermination 1-5, Hawkes 128

Paper #14 – Overdetermination – due 4-30-14
Paper #1 - Rashomon  due 1-22-14
Drawing upon the film Rashomon, what is truth? Illustrate from the film Rashomon.

Paper #2 – Discourse  due 1-29-14
Bud and Mary Sue are products of the discourses of their times when they enter Pleasantville. What happens to them as they encounter Pleasantville’s fifties discourses?

Paper #3 – Justice  due 2-5-14
Using The Meat Fight, develop the anthropological gaze. State the gaze. Turn the gaze to show that justice was served in The Cows of Dolo Paye. Be sure you are clear about the terms ethnocentric, culturally relative and the anthropological gaze.

Paper #4 – Race  due 2-12-14
In Peggy McIntosh’s article about white privilege, what is white privilege? How does it appear in the film Skin Deep? How do the students react to their awareness of white privilege? Do they shift in this regard during their weekend encounter? Explain. Choose two students to illustrate.

Paper #5 – Gender  due 2-19-14
What is the specific gaze in One True Thing? How does this gaze affect Ellen?

Paper #6 – Sexual Orientation  due 2-26-14
What is the role of the union organizer in the film Harvey Milk?

Paper #7 – What does it mean to be a man?  due 3-12-14
Most of the characters in One True Thing have very specific ideas about what it means to be a man. Does Charlie? How does this range of ideas affect Charlie? Does he get it sorted out?

Paper #8 – Indigenous Rights  due 3-19-14
What does the director of Rabbit Proof Fence want to happen to us, the viewers?

Paper #9 – Marriage  due 3-26-14
What does it means to be good Indian in Monsoon Wedding? How do Rahul (the Australian idiot), Aditi, Varun (the Verma’s son), Hermant and Dubey measure up?

Paper #10 – Orientalism  due 4-2-14
What does the director intend to happen to us, the viewers in Peace of Mind: Coexistence Through the Eyes of Palestinian and Israeli Youth? Illustrate.

Paper #11 – Identity  – due 4-9-14
In The Other Son how are the fathers affected when they learn about the mix-up? Do they achieve resolution? This is a question about identity.
Paper #12 – Deconstruction  due 4-16-14  This paper is required.
In Merry Christmas, deconstruct the role of religion. Start by identifying the binary to be deconstructed.

Paper #13 - Retardation  due 4-23-14
Why do we condemn the state’s treatment of the mixed-blood children in Rabbit Proof Fence and tend to understand the state’s treatment of Sam and Lucy in I Am Sam?

Paper #14 – Overdetermination  due 4-30-14
How is the concept of overdetermination illustrated in The Butterfly Effect? What are the implications for you in the choices you will make throughout your life?