Soc'y338801  Culture Through Film  
Fall 2016  
Monday and Wednesday 4:30 to 5:45 PM  
O’Neil 247

Professor: Jim Hamm  
Office: McGuinn 426D  
Office hours: Monday 11 AM to 4 PM  
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About the course  
This is a course within cultural anthropology. 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.

Fair warning: Once your consciousness has been altered, you can’t go back.

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.

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

Requirements  
Films. The films are on reserve at the circulation desk in the library and have been “streamed” so that you may watch them on your computer. Each week I will provide the streaming link for the next week’s film(s).

Papers. You are required to prepare a two to three page, double-spaced paper each week on an assigned topic. The paper topics are listed at the end of this syllabus (pages 6 and 7). The due dates for the papers are shown on the paper assignment list. If your paper is late, you will lose twenty percentage points. Late papers may be turned into my mailbox in McGuinn 426 within one week of the due date but no later than the next class.

Paper rewrite option. If you hand in your paper on the due date, you have the option to rewrite. The rewrite is due in the next class after you received the graded paper. Your grade for this paper will be the higher grade.

Quizzes. At the beginning of each topic, there will be a quiz on the assigned readings and the film(s) for that week. The purpose of the quiz is to have you keep up with the readings and films. The format of the quiz will be true/false, multiple choice, matching and occasionally a question requiring a short answer. If you have read and viewed the films, the quizzes will be easy.
The class discussion only works if you have seen the films and done the reading. Hence, the quizzes.

Class discussion. To promote class discussion, each student will be assigned to lead the discussion of one of the readings throughout the semester.

Cell phones are to be turned off. No texting.

Computers are for note taking no internet or games.

Grading
There are thirteen papers and thirteen quizzes. The papers will make-up 70% of your final grade, class discussion – 10% and the quizzes - 20%.

Beware cutting and pasting your papers from the web. Plagiarism is easy spot and easy to verify using Google. The university rules for plagiarism are severe.

Attendance
There is a bonus for attendance. If you miss two classes, your lowest paper and quiz grades will be dropped. If you miss one class, your lowest two paper and quiz grades will be dropped. If you miss no classes, your lowest three paper and quiz 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.

You may schedule a make-up class if you missed class for a good reason such as a job interview, participation in an athletic event or illness.

Readings
The readings have been gathered into a course pack. Read the assignment each week before the film. 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.

Lesson Plan

Week 1 (8-29 & 8-31) Truth and Reality

Film: Rashomon (87 minutes) PL801. K8 R382
https://bc-kanopystreaming-com.proxy.bc.edu/video/rashomon
Reader: Heider 73-78, Hawkes 1-14

Quiz #1 – Truth – 8-31
Paper #1 - Rashomon - due 9-7
Week 2 (9-7 & 9-12) Discourse

Film: Pleasantville  PN1997. P5785 (124 min.)
Reader: Mills 6-22

Quiz #2 – Discourse - 9-7
Paper #2 – Discourse - due 9-14

Week 3 (9-14 & 9-19) Justice

Film: Meat Fight (14 minutes) DT1058.K86 M43
The Cows of Dolo Paye (32 minutes) GN655. L5 C6
https://bc-kanopystreaming-com.proxy.bc.edu/
Stranger with a Camera (58 minutes) HN79. K4 S77

Reader: Marcus 137-141, Metcalf 83-87

Quiz #3 – Justice – 9-14
Paper #3 – Justice – due 9-21

Week 4 (9-21 & 9-26) Race and the Cultural Construction of Difference

Film: Race: The Power of Illusion: the Differences Between Us (60 minutes) HT1521. R33
Skin Deep (53 minutes) LA229. S65
https://bc-kanopystreaming-com.proxy.bc.edu/

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

Quiz #4 – Race – 9-21
Paper #4 – Race - due 9-28

Week 5 (9-28 & 10-3) Gender

Film: One True Thing (128 minutes) PS3567. U336 O54
="http://dc.swankmp.com/bc/sdc/watch.aspx?v=fc6ccf5bf4a943c3a15f8ee52996b04a">One True Thing</a>

Reader: Hochschild 11-32, Friedan 15-32, Connel 1-11, Kimmel 119-120

Quiz #5 – Gender – 9-28
Paper #5 – Gender – due 10-5
Week 6 (10-5 & 10-12)  What Does It Mean To Be A Man?

Film: Kinky Boots (107 min) PN1997.2. K555
http://dc.swankmp.com/bc/sdc/watch.aspx?v=8e30684ecd1d471ca6a3dd49ca97e6c?"Kinky Boots</a>
Reader: Kimmel 131-138, 284-286

Quiz #6 – Man? – 10-5
Paper #6 - What Does It Mean To Be A Man? – due 10-17

Week 7 (10-17 & 10-19)  Indigenous Social Resistance

Film: Rabbit Proof Fence (94 minutes) PN1993.5. A8 R33
http://dc.swankmp.com/bc/sdc/watch.aspx?v=7e808e41fc5e458b8f39b12b14bc1030"Rabbit Proof Fence</a>
Reader: Manne 1-5, Johnston 1-2

Quiz #7 – Indigenous – 10-17

Week 8 (10-24 & 10-26)  Marriage

Film: Monsoon Wedding (115 minutes) PN1993.5. I8.M66
http://dc.swankmp.com/bc/sdc/watch.aspx?v=2ba27fc7fb1f41938b9db756cb8b891c"Monsoon Wedding</a>
Reader: Nanda 196-204, Lahira 1-21

Quiz #8 – Marriage – 10-24
Paper #8 – Marriage – due 10-31

Week 9 (10-31 & 11-2)  Orientalism: A View from the Other Side

Film: Edward Said on Orientalism (40 minutes) DS12. S25
https://bc-kanopystreaming-com.proxy.bc.edu/

Peace of Mind: Coexistence Through the Eyes of Palestinian and Israeli Youth
(56 minutes) DS119.76. P43

Reader: Said 1-9, Barsamin 52-57, Reinhart 1-7, Meital 1-10
Quiz #9 – Orientalism – 10-31  
Paper #9 – Orientalism – due 11-7

Week 10 (11-7 & 11-9)  Deconstructing the Hegemonic Discourse

Film: Joyeux Noel: Merry Christmas (116 min) PN1993.5. F7 J69

Reader: Currie 46-52

Quiz #10 – Deconstruction – 11-7  
Paper #10 – Deconstruction – due 11-14  This paper is required.

Week 11 (11-14 & 11-16)  Identity – Real or Imagined

Film: The Other Son (105 min) PN1997.2 O844
="http://dc.swankmp.com/bc/sdc/watch.aspx?v=382e32a3d7df4669a56569f55409a843">The Other Son</a>
Reader: Andersen 80-83, Nagel 6-7, 37-45

Quiz #11 – Identity -11-14  
Paper #11 – Identity – due 11-28

Week 12 (11-28 & 11-30) Mental Retardation

Film: I Am Sam (134 minutes) HV1553. I3
="http://dc.swankmp.com/bc/sdc/watch.aspx?v=a89dd4af9a1c4958b4a8ec968690059c">I Am Sam</a>
Reader: Seagull 493-500, Wedding 137-144

Quiz #12 – Retardation – 11-28  
Paper #12 - Retardation - due 12-5

Week 13 (12-5 & 12-7) Overdetermination

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

Quiz #13 – Overdetermination – 12-5  
Paper #13 – Overdetermination – due 12-12 (in my mail box in McGuinn 426D by 5 PM)
SC388 Paper Assignments  Fall 2016

Paper #1 - Rashomon  due 9-7
What is the Rashomon effect? How is it demonstrated in the film Rashomon? What does it say about reality?

Read the Heider article carefully. It is important to understand the implications of the Rashomon effect. It applies to what we will learn in this course and to you.

Paper #2 – Discourse  due 9-14
What are the fifties discourses we see in Pleasantville? How are they affected by the arrival of David and Jen? Are the consequences good or bad for the people of Pleasantville?

Paper #3 – Justice  due 9-21
Using Stranger With A Camera, develop the anthropological gaze. State the gaze. Turn the gaze to show that justice was served in The Meat Fight.

Paper #4 – Race  due 9-28
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 10-5
In One True Thing Kate gives Ellen very specific advice about how to be happy in her life. Does Ellen follow that advice? Make the case for both yes and no.

Paper #6 – What does it mean to be a man?  due 10-17
Which characters in Kinky Boots change their views about what it means to be a man? Explain.

Paper #7 – Indigenous Rights  due 10-24
What is the difference between how you, the viewer, and mainstream white Australians from 1900 to 1970 view(ed) the Aborigine Program in Rabbit Proof Fence? As anthropologists, how can we understand the differences?

Paper #8 – Marriage  due 10-31
Why is the Dubey/Alice marriage in Monsoon Wedding?

Paper #9 – Orientalism  due 11-7
Seven Palestinian and Israeli youth join together to produce Peace of Mind. What do they want to tell us? How do they get their message across? What do they expect us to experience? Illustrate.

Paper #10 – Deconstruction  due 11-14  This paper is required.
In Merry Christmas, deconstruct the concept of enemy/friend. What is the point of the deconstruction?
Paper #11 – Identity – due 11-28
How do the concepts of identity change for the two families in The Other Son?

Paper #12 - Retardation  due 12-5
In I Am Sam, what happens to Rita after she kicks Sam’s door open and finds him behind a wall of his paper constructions?

Paper #13 – Overdetermination  due 12-12
In The Butterfly Effect, what happens when Evan uses his journals to affect the lives of his mother, friends and himself? What do we, the viewer, learn; what is the point of the film?