

Film in Anthropology

Educational subject description sheet

Basic information

Study programme Etnologia (Cultural Differences and Transnational Processes)		Didactic cycle 2024/25
Speciality -		Subject code 20ETES.2FN.14285.24
Organizational unit Faculty of Anthropology and Cultural Studies		Lecture languages English
Study level Second-cycle programme		Course type Elective
Study form Full-time		Block Subjects not assigned
Education profile General academic		
Subject coordinator	Jan Lorenz	
Lecturer	Jan Lorenz	
Periods Semester 1, Semester 2, Semester 3, Semester 4	Activities and hours • Conversatory classes: 30, Graded credit	Number of ECTS points 5

Goals

Code	Goal
C1	The course aims to: C1. introduce students to ethnographic filmmaking, its history, as well as epistemological and methodological paradigms and ethical challenges C2. familiarize students with the specificity of visual anthropology as a subdiscipline of sociocultural anthropology C3. introduce students to the most important anthropological films as well as other media that shaped the contemporary state-of-the-art in visual anthropology, Students will gain a thorough understanding of ethnographic film, its origins, development and contemporary challenges from its earliest inspirations and experiments to the most contemporary and innovative works. The course will consist of screenings of documentary films that shaped or formed the core of visual anthropology, paired with an introduction to the respective theoretical debates about the place and practice of ethnographic filmmaking in the discipline of anthropology. The course will also allow students to engage in critical debates on screened films and consider the place of audio-visual media in the discipline of ethnology/cultural anthropology. The course aims to construe a theoretical introduction to the use of film as a research method, a form of intersubjective engagement and an alternative medium of representation in anthropology. The course will be of particular interest to students of Social Sciences and Humanities, particularly in the fields of cultural anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, film studies and history.

Subject learning outcomes

Code	Outcomes in terms of	Learning outcomes	Examination methods
Knowledge - Student:			
W1	have a general knowledge of the history of ethnographic filmmaking	ETE_K2_W02, ETE_K2_W04, ETE_K2_W05, ETE_K2_W06	Essay, Oral statement, Written work
W2	be able to identify the main anthropological perspectives on ethnographic film	ETE_K2_W04, ETE_K2_W05, ETE_K2_W06	Essay, Oral statement, Written work
W3	be able to identify the main theoretical and formal influences that shaped ethnographic filmmaking and its anthropological perception	ETE_K2_W05	Essay, Oral statement, Written work
W4	recognise and understand contemporary trends in ethnographic filmmaking as well as its methodological, epistemological and ethical concerns.	ETE_K2_W07	Essay, Oral statement, Written work
W5	understand the place of ethnographic film in the larger context of sensory anthropology	ETE_K2_W04, ETE_K2_W05, ETE_K2_W06	Essay, Oral statement, Written work
W6	become familiar with debates on ethnographic film and filmmaking in anthropology/ethnology and within its sub-discipline of visual anthropology	ETE_K2_W04, ETE_K2_W05, ETE_K2_W06	Essay, Oral statement, Written work
Skills - Student:			
U1	gain competence in the critical analysis of documentary film as a form of anthropological representation	ETE_K2_U01, ETE_K2_U04, ETE_K2_U05	Essay, Oral statement, Written work

Study content

No.	Course content	Subject learning outcomes	Activities
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early ethnographic filmmakers Kino-pravda and kino-glaz: the legacy of Soviet experimental documentary filmmaking • American Direct Cinema and French Cinema vérité • Observational cinema in anthropology. • Participative filmmaking and transcultural cinema. Critical perspectives • Cine-trance, ethno-fiction and filmic storytelling. • Aesthetics and metaphors—art and ethnography • Experiments in ethnographic films. Montage, non-linearity and participatory video projects • Sensory immersion and the new observational style 	W1, W2, W3, W4, W5, W6, U1	Conversatory classes

Additional information

Activities	Teaching and learning methods and activities
Conversatory classes	Lecture with a multimedia presentation of selected issues, Conversation lecture, Discussion, Audio and/or video demonstrations

Activities	Credit conditions
Conversatory classes	<p>Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars (to pass students must not have more than one unauthorised absence).</p> <p>To successfully pass the course, students are required to read compulsory texts, prepare for each class and actively participate in seminar discussions (10 % of the final mark).</p> <p>The assessment for this course takes two forms. Students will be expected to submit a mid-term assignment (20% of the final mark) and the final essay (70% of the final mark) and receive a final grade of 3 (sufficient) or above. The topics of mid-term assignment and the final essay are directly related to the course teaching content.</p> <p>The mid-term and final assignments will be marked according to student's ability to fulfil the following criteria:</p> <p>Thesis and Argumentation</p> <p>Clarity of Thesis: The essay should present a clear and concise thesis statement that outlines the main argument or purpose.</p> <p>Argument Development: The argument should be logical, coherent, and well-developed throughout the essay.</p> <p>Critical Analysis: Demonstrates critical thinking by engaging with different perspectives, theories, and concepts relevant to cultural anthropology.</p> <p>Content and Understanding</p> <p>Relevance to Topic: The essay should stay focused on the assigned topic or research question.</p> <p>Depth of Knowledge: Shows thorough understanding of the subject matter, including key theories, concepts, and anthropological debates.</p> <p>Use of Evidence: Utilizes appropriate and varied sources to support arguments, including ethnographic examples, scholarly articles, and other relevant materials.</p> <p>Research and Sources</p> <p>Quality of Sources: Employs credible and scholarly sources, with an emphasis on primary and peer-reviewed materials.</p> <p>Integration of Sources: Integrates sources effectively into the argument, demonstrating how they support or challenge the thesis.</p> <p>Citation and Referencing: Correctly cites all sources using the appropriate referencing style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA) and includes a complete bibliography.</p> <p>Organization and Structure</p> <p>Logical Flow: The essay should have a clear and logical structure, with well-organized paragraphs that each contribute to the overall argument.</p> <p>Introduction and Conclusion: Includes a strong introduction that sets up the essay and a conclusion that summarizes key points and restates the significance of the argument.</p> <p>Transitions: Uses effective transitions between paragraphs and sections to maintain coherence.</p> <p>Writing Quality</p> <p>Clarity and Precision: Writing is clear, concise, and precise, avoiding unnecessary jargon and complex sentences.</p> <p>Grammar and Syntax: Correct grammar, punctuation, and syntax, with minimal errors.</p> <p>Style and Tone: Appropriate academic style and tone for an anthropological essay.</p> <p>Originality and Creativity</p> <p>Original Thought: Displays original thinking and insights, rather than merely summarizing existing literature.</p> <p>Creativity: Demonstrates creative approaches to analyzing anthropological issues or presenting arguments.</p> <p>Ethical Considerations</p> <p>Respect for Cultural Sensitivity: Shows respect for the cultural contexts being studied and avoids ethnocentrism or cultural bias.</p> <p>Ethical Use of Information: Appropriately handles sensitive information and respects confidentiality where applicable.</p>

Literature

Obligatory

1. Compulsory readings: A list of specific obligatory readings will be provided by the course convenor in the introductory class session

Optional

1. Banks, Marcus, and Howard Morphy. 1997. Rethinking visual anthropology. New Haven: Yale University Press. Banks, Marcus, and Jay Ruby. 2011. Made to be seen: perspectives on the history of visual anthropology. Chicago; London: University of Chicago Press. Catherine Russell, 1999. Experimental ethnography: the work of film in the age of video. Duke University Press.
2. Engelbrecht, Beate. 2007. Memories of the origins of ethnographic film. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang. Hockings, Paul. 1975. Principles of visual anthropology, World anthropology. The Hague: Mouton. Pink, Sarah. 2015. Doing sensory ethnography. Second edition. London; Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications. Schneider, A. and Pasqualino, C. eds., 2014. Experimental film and anthropology. A&C Black

Calculation of ECTS points

Activities	Activity hours*
Conversatory classes	30
Preparation for classes	50
Paper preparation	20
Semester paper preparation	40
Student workload	Hours 140
Number of ECTS points	ECTS 5

* academic hour = 45 minutes

Efekty uczenia się dla kierunku

Kod	Treść
ETE_K2_U01	The graduate can search, analyze, evaluate, select, and integrate new information using various sources and interpretation methods, and formulate critical judgments based on this
ETE_K2_U04	The graduate can integrate knowledge from various disciplines in the field of humanities and social sciences and apply it in situations related to the profession of an ethnologist/cultural anthropologist
ETE_K2_U05	The graduate can conduct in-depth and critical analysis and interpretation of various types of cultural products and fields, using original approaches that consider the latest trends in ethnology/cultural anthropology and new achievements in the humanities and social sciences
ETE_K2_W02	The graduate knows and understands in depth the specialized terminology of ethnology/cultural anthropology as well as the terminology appropriate for disciplines related to ethnology/cultural anthropology
ETE_K2_W04	The graduate knows and understands the principles of anthropological interpretation of cultural phenomena in a systematic and in-depth manner
ETE_K2_W05	The graduate knows and understands in-depth connections between ethnology/cultural anthropology and various disciplines of humanities and social sciences as well as related sciences, enabling interdisciplinary integration of research perspectives
ETE_K2_W06	The graduate knows and understands in-depth contemporary achievements, centers, and research schools covering selected areas of ethnology/cultural anthropology and related sciences
ETE_K2_W07	The graduate knows and understands specialized methods of analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and problematization characteristic of selected traditions, theories, and research schools in the field of ethnology/cultural anthropology and related sciences