Syllabus

Ethics and Esthetics - Documentary Cinema and Human Rights - 50426

Last update 06-02-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: communication & journalism

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Raya Morag

Coordinator Email: raya.morag@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 1600-1700

Teaching Staff:
Prof Raya Morag
Course/Module description:
The course discusses central issues in documentary film theory, with an emphasis on the social documentary film. The discussion will be based on an analysis of prominent films of contemporary narrative and documentary cinema.

Course/Module aims:
Familiarity with cinema that deals with human rights in Israel and worldwide as well as with prominent theoretical paradigms of documentary film theory.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
At the end of this course, students will be capable of independently analyzing documentary films through discussion of major ethical issues with regard to both human rights and theoretical models.

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Analysis of films and discussion of key research papers.

Course/Module Content:
1. 28.2.17 Introduction - Human rights - between the narrative and the documentary cinema: Little Soldier - Annette K. Olesen (Denmark, 2008)
2. 7.3.17 Continued
4. 21.3.17 Continued
5. 28.3.17 Continued
6. 25.4.17 Case Study B – Women and the invisible war? The Invisible War – Dick Kirby (2012)
7. 9.5.17 Case Study C – Refugees - Hotline - Silvina Lansman (Israel, 2015)
8. 16.5.17 Fire at Sea - Gianfranco Rosi (Italy-France, 2016)
9. 23.5.17 Case Study D – Docu-activism and the Ethics of Representing the Perpetrator - The Act of Killing - Joshua Oppenheimer & anonymous directors (Denmark/Norway/UK, 2013)
10. 6.6.17 Continued
Students' presentations
12. 20.6.17 Continued
13. 27.6.17 Summary

Required Reading:
Introduction:

Case Study A - Standard Operating Procedure – Errol Morris (USA, 2008)
Standard Operating Procedure, conference report, Jump Cut No. 52, summer 2010
5. Nichols, Bill. Feelings of revulsion and the limits of academic discourse
8. Leimbacher, Irina. Response to papers and comments on Standard Operating Procedure

Case Study B –Women and the invisible war? The Invisible War – Dick Kirby (2012)

Case Study C - Refugees

Case Study D – The Act of Killing - Joshua Oppenheimer & anonymous directors (Denmark/Noorway/UK, 2013)
The Act of Killing, special dossier, Film Quarterly Vol. 67, No. 2, 2013:

Case Study E - Cinema, Photography, and human rights: The Salt of Earth - Juliano Ribeiro Salgado and Wim Wenders (France/Italy/Brazil, 2014).


Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Course Requirements:
1. Active participation. Required reading of one journal article for each class meeting: no 2,3,4,6,10,11,13,17,18,19.
2. Required viewing of films:
The Invisible War
Hotline
Fire at Sea
The Act of Killing
The Salt of Earth
3. Submission of papers: (20% of final grade)
Topic of paper: representations of human rights violations in the Israeli and Palestinian cinema during the Intifada.
Length of report: Up to one page (12 point font, double spaced). The questions are to be answered point by point and not as an essay.
Watch the film Hotline and read article no 11. Present one of the major claims of the article and explain its relevance to the film, based on an analysis of one scene.
1. Quote the chosen claim (two lines. Indicate page no. in the article). 2. Describe the scene briefly (two lines). 3. Analyze the scene based on one cinematic strategy. Use the bibliographic entry to support your argument. 4. Explain the contribution of the scene to the discussion of the claim.
Submission deadline: Before 10:30 a.m. on 9.5.17. The paper should be turned in before the beginning of the class. No submissions will be accepted after the deadline.

4. Submission of final paper (80% of the final grade): Analysis of a documentary film (not discussed in the class) dealing with human rights violation. (please ask me for approval of the films). The paper must include a comparison between the chosen film and one of the films discussed in the class. Bibliographic sources – at least 5 items: 2-3 items from the syllabus and 2-3 items relevant to the chosen film. Film Reviews are not to be used. Length of the paper – up to 10 pages. Deadline for submission: Four weeks after the last class meeting: before 13:00 on 13.6.17, to the Communication Department secretary. The submission must be recorded in the office. Detailed instructions will follow.

5. Submission of seminar paper. This submission is additional to the final paper. Analysis of a documentary film (not discussed in the class) dealing with human rights violation (please ask me for approval of the films). The paper must include a comparison between the chosen film and one of the films discussed in the class. Bibliographic sources – at least 10 items: 5 items from the syllabus and 5 items relevant to the chosen film. Film Reviews are not to be used. Length of the paper – up to 20 pages. Deadline for submission: according to seminar paper submission rules, September 30, 2016, before 13:00, to the Communication Department secretary. The submission must be recorded in the office. Detailed instructions will follow.