



Ida Lupino

ENG492A/WGS493D:

Women & Film

Fall 2008

Monday/Wednesday 10:15-12:05, Caldwell G107

Dr. Marsha Orgeron

Email: marsha_orgeron@ncsu.edu

Office Hours: M/W 9-10am and 12:15-1:15 pm; please make an appointment

Office: Tompkins 202

Office Phone: (919) 515-4149

Film Studies at NCSU:

NCSU offers a Film Studies Minor (15 credit hours), a Film Major (LRT-F, 30 credit hours), and an English major with a film studies concentration (English LFM). For more information contact me or visit our website: www.ncsu.edu/chass/film.

Required Texts:

All readings will be available on “e-reserve”: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/reserves/> under Eng492A. Please print out all essays and bring them to class for discussion.

Course Description and Expectations:

This course will explore the rich history of women’s participation in the motion picture industry. Focusing on female directors, we will study the ways women have gone about the art and business of filmmaking both within the context of well-established national studio systems as well as independently. We will analyze films directed by women in a number of countries—the U.S., France, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, England, Hong Kong, Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, and Colombia—from cinema’s earliest decades through the present day. In addition to considering the aesthetic and formal elements of women’s films, we will discuss the range of social issues at play within them. Students will engage critically with essays about film history, women directors, and feminism. Course requirements include weekly screenings and readings, regular class participation and assignments, two papers, and a cumulative final examination.

Course Requirements:

Screenings/Attendance:

Regular course attendance and participation is required. Please turn *off* all cell phones prior to the start of class and bring relevant readings to each class session. If you are unable to attend a class, ask another student for notes and find out what you missed. Missing more than four days of class will result in incremental drops in your final grade by a third per additional day. For example if you miss six days of class and achieve a B in the course, your grade will drop two thirds to a C+.

You are responsible for making up any missed screenings on your own time. The library's media center—located on the second floor of D.H. Hill, 515-2977—has most of the films we'll be viewing this semester, as does the Film Studies lab (Tompkins G116), where you can review films or make up screenings. The Film Studies lab will be staffed Mondays 4-8pm, Tuesdays 10am-2pm, and Wednesdays 3-7pm by Terry Hobgood. Feel free to email Terry regarding availability of the film you want to see/review: tahobgoo@ncsu.edu.

In-class work cannot be made up. Documented emergencies will receive special consideration if work can be made up in a timely fashion. It is your responsibility to contact me promptly if you have missed class due to a university sanctioned excused absence.

Administrative:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information, visit http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/offices/affirm_action/dss/

If you will be participating in a sport or other University sponsored event this semester you should provide me with documentation so that we can make arrangements for you to make up for any missed classes or work.

Written Work:

You are encouraged to discuss paper topics or any other assignment with me in advance via email or in person. I accept late papers; they drop a grade per class day that they are late. Consider using the university's *free* Writing Tutorial Services. Call 515-3163 or visit http://www.ncsu.edu/tutorial_center/writespeak/index.htm for more information.

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. This includes all forms of plagiarism, cheating on assignments or exams, turning in work that has been written (partially or entirely) by someone else (this includes *websites*), fabricating information or citations, or helping another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. In addition to failing the assignment and being referred to the Office of Student Conduct should you commit any trespass of academic integrity, I reserve the right to give you a failing grade in the course. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/stud_affairs/policies/code95.html.

Grades: All assignments will be graded with letter grades using a plus/minus scale, or on a point system with an equivalent scale. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Paper #1 (4-5 pages): 20%

Paper #2 (8-10 pages): 30%

Participation (50 points)/Additional Assignments/In-Class Work: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Women and Film
Syllabus for Fall 2008



Agnes Varda

Domestic Subjects

- Wed Aug 20 Course Introduction
How Men Propose (USA, 1913) Dir. Lois Weber (6 min.)
Matrimony's Speed Limit (USA, 1913) Dir. Alice Guy Blaché (14 min.)
Eleanor's Catch (USA, 1916) Dir. Cleo Madison (15 min.)
Reading: Harvey Gates, "Alice Blache, A Dominant Figure in Pictures"
Madame Alice Blache, "Woman's Place in Photoplay Production"
- Mon Aug 25 *The Bigamist* (USA, 1953) Dir. Ida Lupino (80 min.)
Wed Aug 27 **Reading:** "Why Are There No Women Directors?"
Ida Lupino, "Me, Mother Directress"
Debra Weiner, "Interview with Ida Lupino"
- Mon Sep 1 Labor Day: Classes Cancelled
Wed Sep 3 *Where Are My Children?* (USA, 1916) Dir. Lois Weber (65 min.)
Reading: Ida May Park, "The Motion-Picture Director"
Shelley Stamp, "Taking Precautions, or Regulating Early Birth-Control Films"
- Mon Sep 8 *Le Bonheur [Happiness]* (France, 1965) Dir. Agnes Varda (79 min.)
Wed Sep 10 **Reading:** Judith Mayne, "The Woman at the Keyhole"
- Mon Sep 15 *Örökbefogadás [Adoption]* (Hungary, 1975) Dir. Márta Mészáros (89 min.)
Wed Sep 17 **Paper #1 Due**
- Feminism/Postfeminism: Melodrama & Female Ambition**
- Mon Sep 22 *Falling Leaves* (USA, 1912) Dir. Alice Guy Blaché (12 min.)
Dance, Girl, Dance (USA, 1940) Dir. Dorothy Arzner (89 min.)
Wed Sep 24 **Reading:** "Woman Among the Mighty"
Laura Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema"
- Mon Sep 29 *Bend It Like Beckham* (England, 2002) Dir. Gurinder Chana (112 min.)
Wed Oct 1 **Reading:** Justine Ashby, "Postfeminism in the British Frame"
- Mon Sep 6 *Marie Antoinette* (USA, 2006) Dir. Sofia Coppola (123 min.)
Wed Sep 8 **Reading:** Camille Paglia, "In Our Hall of Mirrors a Queen Looms Large"
Alexander Zevin, "Marie Antoinette and the Ghosts of the French Revolution"
Desmond Hosford, "The Queen's Hair: Marie-Antoinette, Politics, and DNA"

Nation & Alienation

Mon Oct 13 *Making an American Citizen* (USA, 1912) Dir. Alice Guy Blaché (16 min.)
Semikrasky (Daisies) (Czechoslovakia, 1966) Dir. Vera Chytilova (74 min.)

Wed Oct 15 **Reading:** Dina Jordanova, “Women’s Cinema, Women’s Concerns”

Mon Oct 20 *Qiu yue [Autumn Moon]* (Hong Kong, 1992) Dir. Clara Law (103 min.)

Wed Oct 22 **Reading:** Dian Li, “Between Memory and Forgetting”

Mon Oct 27 *Born Into Brothels* (USA, 2004), Dir. Zana Briski & Ross Kauffman (85 min.)

Wed Oct 29 **Reading:** Frann Michel, “From ‘Their Eyes’ to ‘New Eyes’”

Gender & Violence

Mon Nov 3 *La Nuit de la Vérité [The Night of Truth]* (Burkina Faso, 2004) Dir. Fanta Régina Nacro (100 min.)

Wed Nov 5 **Reading:** Melissa Thackway, “African Women & Film” (partial chapter)
Melissa Thackway, “Interview IV: Fanta Régina Nacro”

Mon Nov 10 *American Psycho* (USA, 2000) Dir. Mary Harron (101 min.)

Wed Nov 12 Guest Lecture: Dr. Maria Pramaggiore

Mon Nov 17 *Stilte rond Christine M., De [A Question of Silence]* (Netherlands, 1982)
Dir. Marleen Gorris (92 min.)

Wed Nov 19 **Reading:** Linda Williams, “A Jury of Their Peers”
Geetha Ramanathan, “Murder as Speech”

Film & Activism

Mon Nov 24 *Amor, mujeres y flores [Love, Women & Flowers]* (Colombia, 1988) Dir. Marta Rodríguez & Jorge Silva (58 min.)

Paper #2 Due

Wed Nov 26 Thanksgiving: Classes Cancelled

Mon Dec 1 *Harlan County U.S.A.* (USA, 1976), Dir. Barbara Kopple (103 min.)

Wed Dec 3 Final Exam Discussion + *Madame Winger Makes a Film: A Survival Guide for the 21st Century* (USA, 2001) Dir. Helen Hill (10 min)

Fri Dec 12 Final Examination, **8:00-11:00 a.m.**

There is no way to make up the final examination.



Madame Winger