

Code: FLMD-322.90, FLMD-322E.66

Course title: Film and the city: the cinematic representations of urban space

Course convenors: Veronika Hermann, László Strausz

Class time and place: Tuesday 10.45-12.15, Online course

Course type: Seminar

Course content: This course on the cinematic representations of urban space will progress through three blocks. After an initial discussion on the theoretical differences between space as a geometrical- and space as a social construction, we will (1) investigate in early, and classic modernist films the interdependence of early metropolitan spaces and their cinematic representations. The second block (2) will consist of detailed filmic analyses of post-WWII American cities, and encourage participants to dissect discourses on the Cold War, civil rights movement, social, technological and economic changes etc, that have fundamentally shaped the narratives of American identity. Lastly, we will (3) engage with interpretations of postcolonial spaces through an analysis of the cinematic representations of Hong Kong's urban spaces.

Requirements: Students are required to attend and prepare for each class session by engaging with the readings and films. Students will give group presentations, and course mark will be calculated on the basis of the written assignment and exam conversation. Student who excel through attendance, preparatory work and in-class discussions will be offered a grade automatically.

Learning outcomes: Participants will become familiar with the theoretical and critical concepts of space, be able to deploy these in film analyses, practice the analytical uses of film theoretical concepts, practice academic speaking and writing skills.

Required films:

- Berlin, symphony of a great city (Ruttmann, 1927)
- The last laugh (Murnau, 1924)
- Third man (Reed, 1948)
- The Crowd (Vidor, 1928)

- The naked city (Dassin, 1948)
- Killer of Sheep (Burnett, 1978)
- The last picture show (Bogdanovich, 1971)
- Do the right thing (Lee, 1989)

- Made in HK (Chan, 1997)
- Szerelemre hangolva (Wong, 2000) vagy Chungking Express (1996)

Indicative Reading: The required reading are collected and made available to students in a pdf format on the online learning platform. This includes the the following:

Michel DeCerteau, "Walking in the City" in. *The Practice of Everyday Life*, U of California Press, 1984. 91-110.

Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space*. Wiley-Blackwell, 1991.

David Harvey, "The Political economy of public space"

<http://davidharvey.org/media/public.pdf>

David Harvey, "Spacetime and the world" in. *The People, Place, and Space Reader*. Routledge, 2014. 12-17.

Walter Benjamin, "Paris Capital of the 19th Century". *Perspecta*, Vol. 12 (1969), pp. 163-172

Georg Simmel, "Fashion". *International Quarterley* 10 (1904), 130-155

Robert Sklar, *Movie-made America*. Vintage, 1994.

Douglas Kellner, *Camera Politica*. Indiana UP, 1988.

Robert Kolker, *A Cinema of Loneliness*. Oxford UP, 2011.

Richard H. Immerman, *Explaining the Tragedy of Vietnam* in B. Bailey-D. Farber (ed.) *The Columbia Guide to America in the 1960's*, Columbia University Press, NY, 2001, 118-125.

David Farber, *The Sixties Legacy: "The Destructive Generation" or "Years of Hope"?* in B. Bailey-D. Farber (ed.) *The Columbia Guide to America in the 1960's*, Columbia University Press, NY, 2001, 167-177.

Chapter 2: Necropolis in Dale Maharidge: *Someplace like America: Tales from the New Great Depression*, University of California Press, Berkeley-LA, 2013, 100-109.
