

Course Code FLM-251:25; FLMD-342:9; BMI-FLMD-342E.04

Course Title: Videographic Criticism 1.

Instructor: László Strausz

Course meets: Tuesday 12.00 – 13.30 @ - 135

Course type: Seminar

Course description: Since its inception, film studies has been producing analyses on moving images in a text-based format. However, with the wide availability of digital screen media production tools, it has become possible to manipulate images on personal computers. Videographic criticism, an emerging mode of scholarship, takes this dramatic change into consideration, as it opens up a new field for students and scholars to present critical and academic ideas in an audiovisual format.

In the first part of this two-semester course students will (1) become familiar with some historical precursors and contemporary examples of the video essay, (2) engage with theoretical debates around using audiovisual texts as academic arguments; (3) create a portfolio for the video to be produced, and (4) pitch the portfolio to the group. The production process will take place in the upcoming Spring 2016 semester.

Weekly schedule:

1. Introduction
2. The videographic essay as a tool to present academic ideas
3. Some historical examples I.
4. Some historical examples II.
5. Types and genres of the contemporary video essay I.
6. Types and genres of the contemporary video essay II.
7. Pre-production: finding your argument
8. Pre-production: choosing a video essay genre
9. Pre-production: locating and choosing your scenes
10. Pre-production: charts, tables, titles and other graphic illustrations
11. Presentation and discussion of the pitches I.
12. Presentation and discussion of the pitches II.
13. Presentation and discussion of the pitches III.

Course requirement: Regular attendance and active participation is required. More than three absences result in an incomplete.

Video essay portfolio: detailed requirements about this assignment will be announced

Grade calculation: in-class activity and participation (40%) + video essay portfolio (60%)

Required films: Chris Marker: *La jetée* (1962)
Harun Farocki: *Videograms of a Revolution* (1992)
Additionally, a wide selection of video essays will be screened during class.

Selected reading: Keathley, Christian: "La caméra-stylo. Notes on video criticism and cinephilia". In: *The Language and Style of Film Criticism*, ed. Alex Clayton and Andrew Klevan (New York: Routledge, 2011)
Grant, Catherine & Christian Keathley, "The Use of an Illusion," *Photogenie* 0, 2014
Grant, Catherine. "The Shudder of a Cinephiliac Idea? Videographic Film Studies Practice as Material Thinking," *Aniki* Vol. 1, No. 1 (2014): 49-62. Online at: <http://aim.org.pt/ojs/index.php/revista/article/view/59/html>
Lavik, Erlend. "The Video Essay: The Future of Academic Film and Television Criticism?" *Frames Cinema Journal* #1.(2012). Online at: <http://framescinemajournal.com/article/the-video-essay-the-future/>
<http://www.thecine-files.com> (Issue 7 – The Video Essay)
<http://framescinemajournal.com/?issue=issue1> (Issue 1 - Film and Moving Image Studies Re-Born Digital?)