COURSE DETAIL

VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Country Italy
Host Institution University of Bologna
Program(s) University of Bologna
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Film & Media Studies Anthropology
UCEAP Course Number 180
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY
UCEAP Transcript Title VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

This is a graduate level course that is part of the Laurea Magistrale program in Cultural Anthropology. The course is intended for advanced levels students only. Enrollment is by consent of the instructor. The course focuses on the history of visual anthropology and on the use of video and photographic techniques in ethnographic research. Students develop a critical view of ethnographic representation related to the use of such techniques. Through the lens of a Cinema of Anthropology, the course offers the instruments necessary for analyzing the content of the visual representation on the one hand, and on the other, the context in which visual representations are produced and received. Examples of context include: who has filmed whom, and why, and how; with what means of production; what is the role of the “director” and of the “spectator” in the filmed/screened reality; and who views these representations and how do they view them. After an introduction to specific cinema genres, the course focuses on questions of production, direction, and visual communication, within the framework of an “aesthetic of resistance” focusing on the visual representation of culture and society, through the screening of documentary films and fiction. The course reflects on the theme of the representation of diversity and on the different cinematic representations associated with anthropology (ethnographic films, documentaries, indigenous cinema). Each lecture focuses on different themes and concepts and is followed by the screening of films, videos, and clips which are then analyzed as a group. Students are encouraged to be active participants in the course through role playing, presentations, and discussions. Students are required to write a 5,000 word essay analyzing a film of their choice (with the consent of the instructor), which can then be presented in the class also as a team project. The thesis must include the concepts of the essential course texts. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the assigned texts during the final oral exam session. Alternatively, students can choose to present a short ethnographic film accompanied by a 3,000 word essay which explains the filmmaking approach and relates the ethnographic film practice to the content of the course. Finally, another option is to present a film essay - a critical analysis of one or two films that is developed through a visual presentation, with analysis of film clips in a cinematic approach. Further

information on the assessment process is provided during the course. The course relies heavily on film, videos, and clips which are screened in class.

Language(s) of Instruction
Italian

Host Institution Course Number
84268

Host Institution Course Title
ANTROPOLOGIA VISIVA (1) (LM)

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus
STORIA CULTURE CIVILTÀ

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Antropologia Culturale ed Etnologia

Course Last Reviewed

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