CINE 380J: Curating Film and Video
4 Credit Hours
Fall 2014, Binghamton University
Class meetings: LH B90, Monday & Wednesday, 9:40 - 11:05am

Instructor: Tomonari Nishikawa
Office: Student Wing Room B11A (an inside room from B11: Cinema Lounge)
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 11:30am - 1:00pm & by appointment
Contact: tnishika@binghamton.edu

TA: TBA

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Students will learn the ideas of curatorial practice, especially for film screenings, from lectures, discussions, and actual experience of curating screening programs of experimental cinema. By working on individual presentation projects, students will learn how to introduce curated programs by the verbal expression and written program notes. Throughout the course, students will understand the roles of curators and artists in the communities too. Towards the end of the semester, students will conduct a film festival (SEFF Binghamton: Student Experimental Film Festival in Binghamton) off campus as a group project, and they will learn strategies to execute an actual screening event, which would be a unique and eye-opening experience for the local residents.

GENERAL EDUCATION STUDENTS LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students in this course will demonstrate an understanding of the creative process and the role of imagination and aesthetic judgment in art, cinema, and film programming/curation (Gen A - Aesthetic Perspective). Also, they will demonstrate proficiency in oral presentations, the ability to improve oral presentations in response to critiques, and skill in listening to and critiquing oral presentations (Gen O - Oral Communication).

PREREQUISITES: CINE 121, 122 & 252 or consent of instructor.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
A notebook and a pen – bring a notebook to every class, as we will watch many films/videos in class, and we will discuss about the works later for curatorial processes. Do not use a laptop/tablet computer, a cell/smart phone, or other electronic devise to type notes in class.

REQUIRED COURSE BOOKS:
Readings will periodically be dispersed electronically or as handouts.

BOOKS AT LIBRARY RESERVE:
“Sundance to Sarajevo: Film Festivals and the World They Made” by Kenneth Turan, University of California Press, ISBN-10: 0520240723

Other Recommended Readings:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:
Please be on time to every class. Excessive tardiness will result in the lowering of your final grade, and students coming late will miss important announcements regarding assignments and projects. Attendance and active participation are expected at every class. Course grade will be lowered by 1.5% for each class missed beyond three, and a number of absences will get counted after a student has registered for the course. If a student has more than six unexcused absences, the student will receive an F. Prompt and regular attendance in class is necessary for this course to be effective. The cell phone usage of any kind during class will not be tolerated, including text messaging. Turn your phones off or do not bring them to the class. Please let me know if you need to be absence due to religious observance, family emergency, or illness.

MANDATORY OUT OF CLASS MEETINGS:
Students are expected to attend screenings of SEFF Binghamton in LH6 and/or other venues in the local area on first Friday of December and the following Saturday.

After confirming the venues, dates, and times, each student needs to choose THREE screenings to come. If a student came to only one screening, missing two other screenings, the student would get two absences. If a student leaves before the end of the screening event, including a Q&A session, it would be counted as an absence.

BLACKBOARD:
Students are expected to check the course Blackboard every Monday and Wednesday. There will be important announcements regarding class and group projects. Students are encouraged to use Blackboard for group/class discussions.

A list of links to online films/videos will be posted on Blackboard by the end of the 2nd week of class. It is extremely important to watch all videos in these websites, as students will select and curate works from the list for Presentation 1.

A list of weekly assignments for each Festival Group will be posted on Blackboard after Monday class.

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW:
Each student will give 2 presentations about his or her curated screening programs. Each presentation is scheduled for 5 to 10 minutes, and it will be followed immediately by a critique session, receiving comments and questions from the peers in class. At the presentation, a student needs to provide a well-typed two-page handout (double-sided, preferred) to all in class (a number of students in class, plus a TA and an instructor), as a program note. A program note must include:

1. a title of the program,
2. your name as a curator,
3. total running time of the screening program,
4. one paragraph of curatorial statement (an introductory paragraph about the whole program), and
5. a screening order with information of each work (a title of the work, filmmaker’s name, a year of production, and the running time), e.g., “Alice Sees the Light” (Ariana Gerstein, 2007, 6 min.). You can also include; original format, color or b&w, sound or silent, and country of production), like “Listen” (Monteith McCollum, 2013, 10 min., digital video, color, sound, USA), along with
6. a description of each selected work (do not quote but write your own interpretation of the work).

Each students will email me <tnishika@binghamton.edu> his or her program note as attached Microsoft word document (.doc or .docx file) by the date for the presentation of the first group.

The Public Speaking Skills Lab in Chenango Champlain Collegiate Center, Room 101B, is available by appointment, Monday-Friday, during the posted hours, to improve your public speaking skills. For more information, visit http://www.binghamton.edu/public-speaking/.

**Presentation 1 (30%)**:
Each student will curate one 30 - 45 min. screening program, selecting at least 4 works from the list of website links posted on the Blackboard. At the presentation, a student is expected to explain (1) a curatorial theme(s) and the process of choosing the theme(s), (2) a title of the program, (3) reasons of each selected work for the program, (4) reasons of the screening order, and (5) his or her own analysis/interpretation of each work. Two-page well-typed program note must be printed out for the entire class, and the presentation must be 5 to 10 minutes long.

**Presentation 2 (30%)**:
Each student will curate one 15 - 45 min. screening program, selecting at least 4 works from the preview works submitted to SEFF Binghamton. A student is expected to explain curatorial themes for selecting works, a title of the program, a screening order, and his or her own analysis/interpretation of each work in the program at the presentation. Two-page well-typed program note must be printed out for the entire class, and the presentation must be 5 to 10 minutes long. *Those who are working as senior programmers may expand their ideas of Presentation 2 for their programs in SEFF Binghamton. Students can bring only flashcards for their presentation.
ANALYSIS PAPER OVERVIEW:

Students will write two analysis papers, one about a program at Transient Visions: Festival of the Moving Image, and another about a film screened as part of Harpur Cinema. The information about these screenings will be announced in class.

Analysis Paper 1 (10%):
A student will write an analysis paper about the curatorial ideas of one program screened at Transient Visions: Festival of the Moving Image (http://www.transientvisions.org/).

The analysis must have three parts in separate paragraphs:

Paragraph 1. A brief description of each film/video shown, including a title of the work, with a student’s own words (no quotations, and this part must be less than 300 words)
Paragraph 2. An analysis of the overall programming/curatorial ideas of the program, including a screening order of the chosen program
Paragraph 3. A proposal for an alternative shorter program, by selecting only half of the works shown in the program (if the number of the works is odd, add one then divide the number in two to find out how many works you need to select), including a new program title, a new screening order, and an explanation of the alternative program and the screening order

The film/video title, filmmaker’s name, and the year of production must be addressed in the paper, e.g. Burning Bush (Vincent Grenier, 2010). The analysis paper should be between 750 and 1,000 words and well typed, and it must be emailed as an attached word document (.doc or .docx file) to <tnishika@binghamton.edu> by its due date before class.

Students are encouraged to submit the analysis paper soon after the screenings.

Analysis Paper 2 (5%):
A student will write an analysis paper about one movie shown as part of Harpur Cinema screenings (http://www2.binghamton.edu/cinema/harpur-film.html).

The analysis must have three parts in separate paragraphs:

Paragraph 1. A brief description of the movie with a student’s own words (no quotations), including a title of the movie, director’s name, and a year of production, e.g., Syndromes and a Century (Apichatpong Weerasethakul, 2006)
Paragraph 2. A bulleted list of at least 20 elements found in the movie. For example;
   • b&w and color images
   • a use of stop-motion animation
   • joy vs. depression
   • a loss of a family member
   • a use of blue as a color scheme
   • a decay in nature
• a change in seasons

Paragraph 3. A proposal of a screening program with the movie at Harpur Cinema and one short film/video from the list of online films/videos for Presentation 1. It should include a program title, a screening order, and explanation of your pick for a short film/video and the screening order (this part must be more than 250 words).

This analysis paper must be printed out and it must have a Harpur Cinema ticket attached – the paper will not be graded if the ticket is not attached. The paper must be between 2 and 4 pages in lengths and well typed.

A paper can be collected anytime before its due date, and students are encouraged to submit the analysis paper right after the screening.

GROUP PROJECT OVERVIEW (25%):
Students will conduct a 2-day film festival, SEFF Binghamton: Student Experimental Film Festival in Binghamton, at local art/screening venues toward the end of the semester. All students will participate the pre-selection process, while having another festival role(s) to conduct and execute the event, e.g. blog/web masters, designers, festival coordinators, fundraisers, print traffic assistants, senior programmers, etc.

Weekly Group Meeting Memos:
Each group will have a meeting every week and a group leader will email a meeting report to <tnishika@binghamton.edu>, Ccing it to a TA and other group members, by the following Monday. The report must include the following information: (1) time of the meeting, (2) a name of the group leader of the week, (3) names of attendees, and (4) a summary of the meeting (what each student has done in the previous week and what each student will do for the coming week). The group leader rotates every week, and failure to email a group meeting memo on time will result in lowering the GROUP PROJECT & PARTICIPATION grade of each group member.

In-Class Discussions:
The large portion of class time is dedicated for this project, viewing submissions and discussing possible curatorial themes and how to conduct the event. Students are asked to engage in in-class discussions to share ideas and give feedback to other groups. During the preview sessions, students need to take notes for each submitted work. Do not use a laptop/tablet computer, a cell/smart phone, or other electronic devise to take notes in class.

Midterm and Final Assessments:
Each group evaluates their activities twice a semester, one around the mid-term and another after SEFF Binghamton. Mid-term assessment should include XXXX, and the final assessment should include XXX and a semester long schedule for each activity in the future. Each assessment must be emailed to me and the TA as a Microsoft Word document (.docx) before its due date.
Participation at SEFF Binghamton:
Students are expected to attend at least THREE screenings of SEFF Binghamton. If a student came to only one screening, missing two other screenings, the student would get two absences. If a student leaves before the end of the screening event, including a Q&A session, it would be counted as an absence.

The screening venues and other off-campus organizations participated in SEFF Binghamton will provide us their feedback based on their overall experience through the course of events and of working with students, which will affect the course grade of GROUP PROJECT & PARTICIPATION.

GRADING:
PRESENTATION 1: 30%
PRESENTATION 2: 30%
ANALYSIS PAPER 1: 10%
ANALYSIS PAPER 2: 5%
GROUP PROJECT & PARTICIPATION: 25%

* 15% grade points of each PRESENTATION is based on the oral presentation skills, 5% is based on the written program note, and 10% toward the ideas of the curated program.

LATE WORK:
Plan ahead to have all presentations and papers completed on time. A presentation and analysis paper grade will be lowered by 1% point for each day of class it is late (for example: 10% points becomes 9% points if it is submitted on the first class after its due date). The late completion of a group project will also result in receiving a lower grade point.

All assignments, papers, and projects submitted after the last day of class will receive a 0% grade point.

EXTRA CREDIT PAPERS:
If you go to the following screenings with multiple films/videos and write an analysis about the curatorial ideas, you will get 2% extra points toward final grade. You can submit up to two extra papers (4% extra points maximum). The extra credit paper should be between 250 and 500 words and well typed, and it must be emailed as an attached Microsoft word document (.doc or .docx file) to <tnishika@binghamton.edu> within a week after the screening.

Wavelengths programs at Toronto International Film Festival
View from the Avant-Garde programs at New York Film Festival

DISABILITY-RELATED EQUAL ACCESS ACCOMMODATIONS:
Students who wish to request academic accommodations to insure their equitable access and participation in this course should notify the instructor by the second week of class. Authorizations from Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are generally required. We encourage you to contact SSD at (607) 777-2686 and to schedule an appointment with the
Director or Learning Disabilities Specialist. Their website (www.binghamton.edu/ssd) includes information regarding their Disability Documentation Guidelines. The office is located in UU-119.

**PLAGIARISM:**
The use of work other than your own without proper citation or credit is a serious offense. Penalties for plagiarism include: failure on the assignment and/or University academic discipline, which could mean suspension or dismissal from the University.