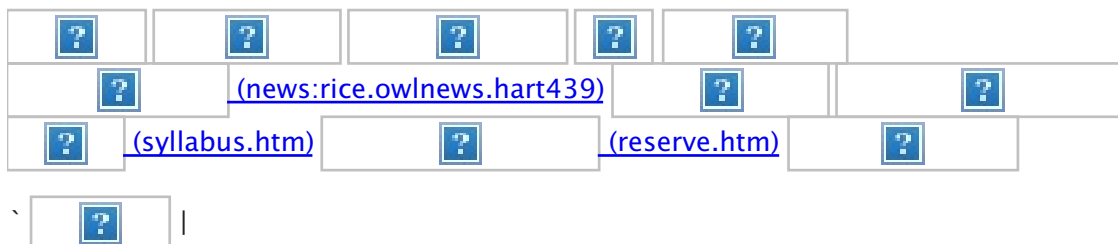


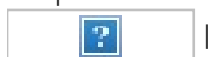
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Rice University Department of Art & Art History Spring Semester 1999

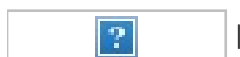


Professor Hamid Naficy OFFICE/HOURS: Media Center, Thu. 5-6 PM or by appointment
MAILBOX: Media Center TELEPHONE: 527-4882, or x2079 E-mail naficy@rice.edu
(<mailto:naficy@rice.edu>) (<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~naficy>) (<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~naficy>)

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Media Center auditorium Thursday, 1-5 PM



NOTE: Restricted admission, consent of instructor required.

This is a seminar course whose aim is to provide you with a broad overview of the history of documentary and ethnographic cinemas. It seeks not only to familiarize you with documentary and ethnographic film traditions but also to problematize them. Thus, on occasions, both the canonical films and those that deconstruct them will be examined. A number of significant film movements and auteurs, major approaches worldwide, and some of the salient issues and discourses about documentary and ethnographic films will be discussed. In the ethnographic area, the works of the French filmmaker Jean Rouch, is highlighted. The shifting and overlapping boundaries of fiction and nonfiction is also examined.

CLASS FORMAT: Each class session consists of lecture, film screenings, student presentations, and discussion. All the required screenings will occur during the class sessions. However, occasionally you are required to attend Rice Cinema and the Museum of Fine Arts' film screenings. Admittance to Rice Cinema for students of this course is free of charge.



REQUIRED TEXTS:

- 1\.. Erik Barnouw, *Documentary: A History of the Non-Fiction Film*. 2nd revised edition. NY: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- 2\.. Bill Nichols, *Representing Reality: Issues and Concepts in Documentary*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991.
- 3\.. William Rothman, *Documentary Film Classics*. NY: Cambridge University Press, 1997.
- 4\.. Paul Stoller, *The Cinematic Griot: The Ethnography of Jean Rouch*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Barry K. Grant and Jeannette Stoniowski, *Documenting the Documentary: Close Readings of Documentary Films*. Detroit: Wayne State University, 1998.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READINGS:

For certain topics and films, additional readings are assigned. These are noted in the syllabus and the materials themselves are placed on reserve in the Brown library.

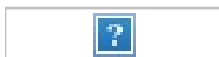
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- 1\.. On-time attendance at all sessions (there will be periodic roll-calls!).
- 2\.. Participation in class and newsgroup discussions for which you are graded.
- 3\.. All assigned readings and films must be studied by all the students in the class, not just the materials about which you make presentations. For maximum effectiveness, all assigned readings should be read before the class session to which they belong.
- 4\.. Payment of a \$20.00 viewing lab fee to the Media Center secretary by the third week of the semester.
- 5\.. Every student must have an Owlnet computer account to fully participate in the class.

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A special electronic newsgroup has been setup for this course that requires additional time and activity on your behalf. This component is still in its experimental phases but it is intended to help the class explore the uses of the Internet and its resources in teaching and learning media studies topics.
[newsgroup \(news:rice.owlnews.hart439\)](news:rice.owlnews.hart439)



Assignments for this course consist of students oral presentations to the class, two take-home term papers, newsgroup participation, and weekly synopsis of the readings. Oral presentations are to be based on the assigned materials (readings and films). Topics will be assigned/chosen in the first class session. Before each presentation, prepare a 3-4 page paper consisting of analysis and critique of the topic. Distribute the paper to all class participants. Your presentation should consist of two parts: history of documentary and ethnographic films and analysis of specific films/issues raised by the readings. It may also include demonstration and/or screening of materials. You are encouraged to do outside readings to bolster your presentations and to provide additional information to the class. Oral presenters are expected to lead the discussion that follows their presentation. For additional sources, consult the instructor and the reserve shelf in Brown library.

The topic for the first term paper is assigned by the instructor. You can choose your own topic for the final paper only in consultation with the instructor. All papers must be typed double-space and include full bibliographic and filmographic citations (use the MLA or the Chicago style). Papers are due at the START of each class session. Failure to turn them in at that time will result in lowering of the paper's grade.

At the beginning of each session, hand in a 1-2 page type-written summary of that sessions assigned readings that highlights the main points of each reading.

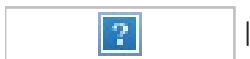
The course grade will be based on the grades for term papers, oral presentations, synopsis of the readings, newsgroup participation, and your attendance and participation in class discussions. The maximum length of the oral and written assignments, their due dates, and grade value are noted in the chart below.

ASSIGNMENTS	PAGES	DUE DATE	GRADE VALUE
Oral presentations	60 min.	as scheduled	15% of class grade
Term paper	7-10	Week 7 (3/2)	30%
Final paper	12-18	Last Week (5/6)	40%

Attendance/participation -	-	10%
Computer newsgroup -	Weekly	5%

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PLAGIARISM: The honor code rules! If you directly quote or paraphrase a source, so indicate it with full citation.

NOTE TAKING: You are strongly advised to take notes while watching films. Note-taking is an important part of your research activity and your notes will become a key resource when writing papers on specific films.

FILMS ON RESERVE :

The Media Center and the Fondren library may have a copy of the class films. Those at the Media Center are on reserve in Viewing Room and those at Fondren will be on reserve at Fondren Reserve Desk (for VHS tapes) and Brown Reserve Desk (for laserdiscs).

DISABILITY :

Any students with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations, is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will be confidential. Such students should also contact Disabled Student Services in the Ley Student Center.

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[The HART439 Newsgroup \(news:rice.owlnews.hart439\)](news:rice.owlnews.hart439)

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