

## E f379R • 13-Music Videos: History and Theory

**Instructor:** Kornhaber, Donna  
**Unique #:** 79785  
**Semester:** Summer 2020, first session  
**Cross-lists:** n/a

**Flags:** Writing; Independent Inquiry  
**Restrictions:** n/a  
**Computer Instruction:** Yes

**Time and Location:** Internet

**Prerequisites:** Nine semester hours of coursework in English or rhetoric and writing

**Description:** From the days when MTV actually played music in the 1980s and 90s to the era of YouTube and online viral sensations, the music video has been a beloved fixture of popular culture for more than thirty-five years. Less well known is the genre's deep connection with and indebtedness to the world of short-form filmmaking and the cinema proper, with upstart auteurs like Spike Jonze, David Fincher, and Mark Romanek and even Hollywood heavyweights like Martin Scorsese all working in the form at various points in their careers. In this course, we will explore the history of the music video as a genre of short-form cinema, focusing on the work of key music video directors set in the context of their other work in short and feature filmmaking. Focused in its first half on introducing and theorizing the work of select music video directors from the 1980s to the present, the course will turn in its second half to a series of independent, student-led research investigations into select topics and figures in the history of music videos, culminating in the preparation of a research project and in-class presentation. Key directors to be examined in class include Spike Jonze, David Fincher, Mark Romanek, Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, Michael Gondry, Antoine Fuqua, Tarsem Singh, and Martin Scorsese. Music videos covered will include those featuring Michael Jackson, Madonna, Prince, George Michael, Dire Straits, Bjork, R.E.M., Nirvana, Nine Inch Nails, Weezer, The Beastie Boys, Fatboy Slim, Lady Gaga, Jay-Z, Kanye West, Beyonce, and Arcade Fire.

**Texts:** *Sound and Vision: The Music Video Reader*, ed. Simon Frith, Andrew Goodwin, and Lawrence Grossberg (Routledge, 1993).

**\*Links to music videos and assignments from the above text to be provided weekly by instructor.\***

**Requirements & Grading:** Two short papers (3-5 pages), 25% each; Final research paper (8-10 pages), 35%; Discussion and Participation, 15%.

### Schedule:

Week	Day	Date	Assignment/Event	
1	TH	6/4	Introduction	
	F	6/5	Basics of Film Analysis	
2	M	6/8	Origins of the Music Video	
	T	6/9	Origins of the Music Video	
	W	6/10	Celebrity, Politics, and Paratext	
	TH	6/11	Celebrity, Politics, and Paratext	
	F	6/12	Online Discussion	
3	M	6/15	Animation in the Music Video	<b>First short paper due</b>
	T	6/16	Animation in the Music Video	
	W	6/17	Asynchronous Sound/Image	
	TH	6/18	Asynchronous Sound/Image	
	F	6/19	Online Discussion	
4	M	6/22	David Fincher	
	T	6/23	David Fincher	
	W	6/24	Mark Romanek	
	TH	6/25	Mark Romanek	
	F	6/26	Online Discussion	<b>Second short paper due</b>
5	M	6/29	Spike Jonze	
	T	6/30	Spike Jonze	
	W	7/1	Michael Gondry	
	TH	7/2	Michael Gondry	
	F	7/3	Online Discussion	

6	M	7/6	Chris Cunningham, Hype Williams, Floria Sigismondi	
	T	7/7	Hiro Murai	
	W	7/8	Concept / Visual Albums	
	TH	7/9	Online Discussion	<b>Last class day</b>
	F	7/10	---	<b>Final paper due</b>

#### **Policies:**

*Documented Disability Statement:* The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone), or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

*Honor Code:* The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

*Academic Integrity:* Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>.

*Religious Holy Days:* By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

*Late Assignments Policy:* Assignments are due on Canvas by 5pm on the dates listed in the Schedule unless otherwise rescheduled by the instructor. Unless arrangements for an extension are made in advance with the instructor, late assignments will be marked down 1/3 of a letter for every day they are late.

#### **Flag Statement:**

*Independent Inquiry:* This course carries the Independent Inquiry flag. Independent Inquiry courses are designed to engage you in the process of inquiry over the course of a semester, providing you with the opportunity for independent investigation of a question, problem, or project related to your major. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from the independent investigation and presentation of your own work.

*Writing:* This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Web Site:** A Canvas site will be available for this course.

#### **Instructor:**

Donna Kornhaber  
Online office hours: by appointment

#### **Teaching Assistant:**