Film and Video 420. Documentary Film

The films to be studied in this course will be selected from the full spectrum of documentary film practice from the 1920s to the present, but will concentrate on specific topics rather than on an historical overview. The developing and shifting conception of documentary film practice, issues of social import, of political and propagandistic values, of documenting the 'other' as well as claims to veracity and objectivity will be treated within an analytical framework. Different approaches to production, particularly within a burgeoning ethnographic film practice, will also be studied. Among the films to be screened are When the Mountains Tremble, Shepherd of the Night Flock, and Triumph of the Will. Students will keep a journal consisting of short essays on assigned topics and write a ten-page final paper.

Prerequisites: None
Meeting Time: Lectures - Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 10:30 AM
              Film Screening - Wednesday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Meeting Place: Tuesday and Thursday Lectures, 2520 Frieze Building
              Wednesday Film Screening, Angell Hall Auditorium B
Instructor:    N. Frank Ukadike

CAAS/Film and Video 440. African Cinema

A critical and interdisciplinary look at the development of African cinema from its inception in the 1960s, at the height of the sociopolitical upheavals experienced by many nations in the transition from colonialism to independence, to the recent phase of introspection and diversification. The relationship of cinematic practices to transformations in the social and economic sphere will be examined, as well as the problematic of creating an indigenous aesthetics based on oral tradition and filmic paradigm that is singularly African and counter-hegemonic. The course will examine the impact of technology, problems of financing and distribution, ties with the cinema of other developing nations, co-productions, as well as other pan-African strategies. Screenings include the films of Ousmane Sembene (Senegal), Haile Gerima (Ethiopia), Desire Ecare (Ivory Coast), Souleymane Cisse (Mali), and Med Hondo (Mauritania). Students will keep a journal of films screened in class and take a midterm and final examination.

Prerequisites: None
Meeting Time: Lectures - Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 - 2:00 PM
              Film Screening - Tuesday, 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Place:        Tuesday and Thursday Lectures, MLB Lecture Room 1
              Tuesday Film Screening, Angell Hall Auditorium B
Instructor:   N. Frank Ukadike

For further information on these courses contact:
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