

Revolutionary Project(ion)s: Latin American Filmmaking and the Theorization of Engagement (Martin-Márquez)

Crosslisted with 16:940:598:01/ 16:195:517:03

T 9:30-12:30; Comp Lit Sem

screenings, Douglass Media Center

Over the course of the long 1960s, filmmakers working in many different contexts sought to revolutionize cinema, formulating a range of different strategies in their endeavor to change society through film. Notwithstanding the Eurocentric bent of dominant film historical narratives, Latin America was a premier center of innovation during this time period. Filmmakers from the region were on the forefront of efforts to counter the hegemony of Hollywood, question the role of elite/popular/mass culture in ideological interpellation, explore alternative forms of film textuality, prompt audiences into active engagement inside and outside of screening spaces, interrogate the auteurist creative model, and draw marginalized communities into film production. In this seminar, we will explore the emergence of a theory and praxis of engaged filmmaking in Latin America; we will also discuss the ways in which exchanges between Latin American and European filmmakers enriched cinematic developments on both sides of the Atlantic during this era. At the end of the semester, we will consider as well how the goals of 1960s filmmakers have been reformulated by more recent politically-engaged media practitioners.

No prior work in film studies required; there will be a “crash course” on close textual analysis at the beginning of the semester. This course may be used as one of the two electives for the Graduate Certificate in Cinema Studies.

A brief scene analysis essay and a seminar paper (plus writing workshop) will be required; students may also be asked to lead one portion of a seminar discussion.

Some of the filmmakers that may be discussed include: Nelson Pereira dos Santos, Glauber Rocha, Joaquim Pedro de Andrade (Brazil); Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Sara Gómez, Santiago Álvarez, Nicolás Guillén Landrián (Cuba); Leopoldo Torre Nilsson, Fernando Birri, Fernando Solanas, Octavio Getino (Argentina); Ukamau Group (Bolivia).