The French Documentary Film

This course proposes an exploration of French language documentary films produced between the 1950’s and the early 21st century. We will define and question the notions of “factual” and “non-fictional” cinema and will develop analytical tools to discuss form and content. The works presented in our eight-week sequence will be selected on the basis of their formal relevance in the evolution of this cinematographic genre as well as on their informative or controversial quality with regards to contemporary French history and society. Film selection will be related to such topics as the Franco-German “collaboration” during WWII, decolonization, youth movements of the sixties, French visions of America, French education, environmental activism, gay rights, urban violence and more.

Each week, we will watch one documentary film (sometimes two, depending on length) and read scholarly articles related to them. Films and readings will be made available via Moodle. In addition, your instructor will post weekly lectures in audio or video format (all in French) on Moodle.

Twice during the session, students will be asked to respond in French to assigned material and questions in a graded discussion forum. There will be a mid-session exam (after four weeks of class) and a final exam at the end of the session.

A list of possible documentaries featured in our program:

- *Les maîtres fous* (Jean Rouch, 1955)
- *L’Algérie en flammes* (René Vautier, 1958)
- *Octobre à Paris* (Jacques Pajinel, 1961)
- *Chronique d’un été* (Jean Rouch, Edgar Morin, 1962)
- *Le chagrin et la pitié* (Marcel Ophüls, 1969)
- *Place de la République* (Louis Malle, 1972)
- *Le fond de l’air est rouge* (Chris Marker, 1977)
- *God’s country* (Louis Malle, 1985)
- *Etre et avoir* (N. Philibert, 2002)
- *Au delà de la haine* (Olivier Meyrou, 2005)
- *La cité du mâle* (Cathy Sanchez, 2010)
- *Le temps des grâces* (Dominique Marchais, 2009)
This course is restricted: special departmental permission is required to enroll. Only students in need of it to fulfill a special requirement or to complete their degree will be allowed to enroll. Subjects treated this summer: Balzac and Flaubert. Students will read and discuss the following texts on the 19th-Century French Literature Reading List in preparation for the Comprehensive Exam: *Le père Goriot, Madame Bovary, Un coeur simple.*
This course deals with the theme of the hero in Romance cultures. We will follow it (and him/her) across centuries and in lands where Romance languages were spoken, stopping at four key historical moments that inspired – in four different places – great cultural constructs built around the figure of the hero. We will study four works centered on this memorable figure:

1) Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, “El Cid” who died in 1099 in Valencia, national Spanish hero and the protagonist of the anonymous “Poema del Cid” (1140);
2) Richard Lionheart, King of England (1189-1199), a hero of the Third Crusade whose exploits inspired the troubadours (e.g., Gaucelm Faidit in a famous poem composed on the occasion of his death) and was a troubadour and a trouvère himself in moments of leisure or sorrow;
3) The fictional figure of a ruler, hero and anti-hero (for some commentators), inspired by historical leaders active during the Italian Rinascimento (e.g., Lorenzo de’ Medici and Cesare Borgia) as conceived in the famous book “Il Principe” by Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527), published post-mortem in 1532;
4) The atypical figure of Jeanne d’Arc (1412-1431), the national heroine of France and a saint, as she appears – for the first time in literature - in a poem by François Villon (1431 – 1462?).

The course will be taught in English online; the works will be studied in bilingual editions (original text vs. English version) or in English translations with excerpts of the original made available on Moodle.

Requirements: 2 written assignments and a Final Exam including an analytical essay (written in English).

Bibliography:
SPAN 4015/5015 – History of the Spanish Language

Dr. Bryant Smith

3 Credit Hours
SPAN 4015-476 (undergraduate online) class #40552
SPAN 5015-476 (graduate online) class #40553

In this course, we will study the evolution of the Spanish language in the Iberian Peninsula and other Spanish-speaking countries, exploring the influences of other languages, such as Latin and Arabic, on the vocabulary, syntax, phonology and morphology of Spanish. We will also discuss the gradual development of modern Spanish, including varieties of Latin American Spanish and Spanish in the United States.

There will be message board responses, a mid-term exam (project), text responses, and a final paper.

This course, conducted in Spanish, will familiarize the student with “Modernismo,” a literary movement appearing in the Hispanic world in the final decades of the 19th century and lasting until the early 1920’s. Originally indebted to French Parnassianism (impeccable form, high plasticity in imagery, return to classical metrics) and Symbolism (mysticism and esoterism), and in coincidence with the artistic world of, for instance, Alphonse Mucha or Antonio Gaudí, it opened a bright period of literary innovation in the poetry and prose of America and Spain. As a movement of rupture and aversion to the surrounding society, its creators looked for longed and idealized worlds, often medieval or exotic. They also embraced esoteric doctrines, shown in their interest for the hidden things and in a desire or restlessness for communicating with the afterlife. As for their mysticism, it is mostly heterodox, but rarely free of sensuality and eroticism.

Students will be provided with the tools of poetic and rhetorical analysis, as well as with narratives on the background and circumstances of production.

Requirements: weekly readings and questionnaires. A 10/12 page term paper and a final exam.

This course, taught in Spanish, is restricted: special departmental permission is required to enroll. Only students in need of it to fulfill a special requirement will be allowed to enroll.

Topics in recent semesters: Golden Age Literature including Cervantes; early Spanish Civilization; Readings on women writers’ fiction, etc.