

AMERICAN AVANT-GARDE, winter 2014
a 4-day intensive course over two weeks by Henry Hills

Thursday, 20 February 10:00-12:30 (screening room) & 15:00-17:15 (U7)
Friday, 21 February 10:00-12:30 (screening room) & 15:00-18:00 (screening room)
Thursday, 27 February 9:00-12:00 (screening room) & 15:00-17:15 (U7)
Friday, 28 February 10:00-13:00 (screening room) & 14:30-19:00 (screening room)

Course description:

The dominance of narrative fiction in film, which properly belongs to literature, and the consequent hegemony of Hollywood, is an historical anomaly principally owing to the economics of film production (an issue from the pre-digital past, now that filmmaking, like record collecting, has become essentially free). We will explore fringe work as an alternative reality which contains seeds of a positive future vision for moving-imagery, i.e., avant-garde film will be viewed as a model of consciousness seeking expansion. There was an exceptional fluorescence of this type of work in America from the mid-40's into the 80's (and even up to the present), ever existing on the marge (though highly publicized in the 60's and early 70's) as a heroic gesture.

Requirements:

Attendance at all screenings is mandatory. A journal describing your experience of these films (3 page minimum; plagiarism off the internet will result in failure) is due after the last class to receive credit.

The screenings are open to anyone wishing to attend even if not enrolled in class.

class 1: **Early Cinema and It's Influence**

Ken Jacobs HANKY PANKY

NYMPH

CAPITALISM:SLAVERY

William Kennedy Laurie Dickson EARLIEST EDISON FILMS

DICKSON EXPERIMENTAL SOUND FILM

Andy Warhol BLOW JOB

Edwin S. Porter CONEY ISLAND AT NIGHT

DREAM OF A RAREBIT FIEND

AN AMERICAN BEAUTY

Billy Bitzer INTERIOR NEW YORK SUBWAY

(with D.W.Griffith) THOSE AWFUL HATS

Fredrick Armitage DEMOLISHING THE STAR THEATRE

SEEING NEW YORK BY YACHT DOWN THE HUDSON

Ken Jacobs NEW YORK STREET TROLLEYS (Nervous System demo)

class 2:

Maya Deren MESHES OF THE AFTERNOON

AT LAND

CHOREOGRAPHY FOR CAMERA

RITUAL IN TRANSFIGURED TIME

MEDITATION ON VIOLENCE

Marie Menken GLIMPSE OF THE GARDEN

ARABESQUE FOR KENNETH ANGER

EYE MUSIC IN RED MAJOR

GO! GO! GO!

class 3:

Man Ray LE RETOUR A LA RAISON (3)

EMAK BAKIA (16)

(Fernand Léger &) Dudley Murphy BALLET MÉCANIQUE (Antheil track) (20)

Ralph Steiner H2O (12)

Joseph Cornell ROSE HOBART (19)

Robert Breer EYE WASH (2 versions)

Kenneth Anger INAUGURATION OF THE PLEASURE DOME (38 min)

class 4: **Stan Brakhage**

WAY TO THE SHADOW GARDEN

WINDOW WATER BABY MOVING

MOTHLIGHT

SCENES FROM UNDER CHILDHOOD 1

RIDDLE OF LUMEN

THE DANTE QUARTET

DELICACIES OF MOLTEN HORROR SYNAPSE

COMINGLED CONTAINERS

CHINESE SERIES

(week two)

class 5: **Underground Film from California**

Sidney Peterson THE LEAD SHOES

Harry Smith #4 (2 soundtracks)

Jordan Belsen ALLURES

Bruce Conner COSMIC RAY

BREAKAWAY

REPORT

Pat O'Neill RUNS GOOD

HORIZONTAL BOUNDARIES

class 6: **Feminist Classics**

Vivienne Dick SHE HAD HER GUN ALL READY

Leslie Thornton PEGGY AND FRED IN HELL

Peggy Ahwesh MARTINA'S PLAYHOUSE

Abigail Child COVERT ACTION

Naomi Uman REMOVED

Su Friedrich SINK OR SWIM

class 7: **Jack Smith**

Ken Jacobs BLOND COBRA

Jack Smith FLAMING CREATURES

Ron Rice CHUMLUM

class 8 **Duration**

Andy Warhol VINYL

Robert Nelson BLEU SHUT

James Benning RR