**HISTORY ON FILM**

Readings:

*Bookstore:*
- Natalie Z. Davis, *The Return of Martin Guerre*
- Robert A. Rosenstone, *Film on History / History on Film*

*Website:*
Various essays and chapters from books will be posted on the course website, which you should check regularly.

**Course Requirements:**

1. **Weekly assignment:** After each screening students must write a sentence or two which addresses the question: what does this film say about its subject? The response should be illustrated with two or three specific references to images (we will discuss this in discuss how to write this in class). These brief papers are to be brought to the class meeting, where you may be called upon to read them aloud. You must complete five of these over the term and hand in at least two at midterm. **10 percent of grade.**

2. **Short paper:** One of the weekly assignments must be turned into a 500 word paper and handed in midterm week. **20 percent of grade.**

3. **Long Paper:** Your major assignment, to write a 3000 word paper (plus or minus 5 percent) can be done in one of two ways. **50 percent of grade.**
   - **A.** Write a general essay with more or less this title: “The History Film. What is it? Why Should We Care?” While the paper need not have that precise title, the idea is for you to reflect broadly and critically on the subject matter of the course -- the reading, the theories, the discussion, and the films. Beyond the material of the course, you will be expected to include in your paper some analysis of a FILM NOT viewed during the term.
   - **B.** Write a detailed critique of a single historical film not seen in class, using some of the kinds of analyses encountered in the various readings and class discussions.
   - **C.** Write a treatment (description of) a historical movie that you would like to make from research in several books on a particular topic. Your description would outline the characters, plot, historical themes, and visual strategies, and also describe certain key visual moments. It must be based on research in several works of history and include them in a bibliography.

4. **Attendance, participation:** Participation is class is essential, so let me hear your voice. In addition, during the last three meetings of class each student will be expected to give a short presentation on either a. the extra film chose for the term paper, or b. the treatment you are writing. **20 percent of grade.**

**Course Strategy / Weekly Schedule / Office hours:**

1. Class will meet twice a week. Screenings will take place on Tuesday nights in Baxter 228 (except for Jan. 11 - see weekly entry). Lecture / discussions will be the following Thursday at 1 p.m.
2. My office hours: Tu 4, Th 2 and by appointment -- best made by email: rr@hss.
THE DRAMATIC FILM:
Jan.  4:    SCREENING: Reds (1st half)

6:        INTRO TO THE HISTORY FILM
Read: History on Film / Film on History (hereafter HF) chapters 1, 6

DOCUMENTARY INTERLUDE:
Screening In Place of Death and The Ghetto
DIRECTOR ALAN MARCUS HOST

13:    Class session with Professor Alan Marcus
Read: “The City and the Moving Image” (website)

THE DRAMATIC FILM:

18:    Legend as History
Screening: The Return of Martin Guerre

20:    Read: Davis, The Return of Martin Guerre; AHR Forum: essays by Natalie Davis and Robert Finlay (website)

25:    Fact as History
Screening: Glory

27:    Read: Rosenstone, Film on History, Chapters 2, 3; Robert Burgoyne, “Race and Nation in Glory” (website)

Feb.  1:    Innovative - Meta History
Screening: Walker or Zoot Suit

3:    Read: Rosenstone, Film on History, Chapter 4; “Walker as History” website

THE BIOPIC

8:    Standard
Screening: Frida

10:    Read: tba, reports on term papers
15  Mixed Genre  
   32 Short Films About Glenn Gould  
Reading: tba; reports on term papers

THE WAR FILM: VIETNAM

Feb  22:  From Above  
Screening: Path to War

24:  Read: essays on Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam (website)  
   Guest in class: Producer Howard Dratch

March  1:  From Below  
Screening: Born on the 4th of July

3:  Read: Rosenstone, Film on History, Chapters 7, 8,9; Jack E. David, “Oliver Stone’s Born on the 4th of July Experience”; Oliver Stone, “On Seven Films” (website)

Noon, March 16: Term Papers Due

Some Suggestions of Interesting Historical Films for Term Papers  
(I can tell you more about them, as can Wikipedia and IMDB)
Spartacus
The Passion of Joan of Arc (silent)
1992: The Conquest of Paradise
Christopher Columbus: The Discovery
Black Robe
1776
La Nuit de Varennes
The Rise of Louis XIV
La Marseillaise
Armistad
Jefferson in Paris
Danton
Napoleon
Burn!
Little Big Man
The Last Supper
Young Mr. Lincoln
Abe Lincoln in Illinois
The Molly Maguires
1900
The Organizer
Freud
The Leopard
All Quiet on the Western Front
Rosa Luxemburg
Matewan
Sergeant York
Patton
Gandhi
Schindler’s List
Citizen Kane
Fat Man and Little Boy
Woody Guthrie
Truman
Full Metal Jacket
Steal This Movie
Missing
Mississippi Burning
Malcolm X
Official Story
Ali
Nixon
All the President’s Men
Kinsey
There Will be Blood
Three Kings
Platoon
JFK
Eight Men Out
Persepolis