Course Guidelines

FV7302 – Formations of Cinema Studies: Critical Approaches, Contemporary Challenges, Core Course 2 (7,5 hp), Fall term 2017.

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Start of the course: October 31, 11:00. Seminarierum 2

Course description:

The course explores a range of critical approaches to the study of the moving image as an archival technology. Focusing on theoretical issues and methodological questions, the course serves as an advanced introduction to the disciplinary formation of Cinema Studies, its current research themes and contemporary debates. In continuation of the Core Course 1, this course offers an enhanced orientation into mediatheoretical questions. The aim is to foster critical thinking and the development of analytical skills and research practices.

In fall 2017, the focus is on archival theory and practice, and how this field is of specific relevance for film studies. In our age of conversion to digital technologies, the roles of media are changing and demand a re-thinking of their traditional constellations. Especially the changes in archival techniques for storage and access are pressing for theoretical responses. The course approaches the aesthetics and politics of the archive through a focus on techniques of storage and access and their consequences for issues of montage and modes of social memory. These aspects of the archive are analysed through the differences and changes between three ages of storage techniques: The text archive, the intermedial archive and the digital archive.

Expected learning outcomes:

On completion of the course, students should demonstrate

1. an enhanced understanding of the range of methodologies and theories currently employed within Archive Studies;

2. ability to identify and critically reflect upon key contemporary debates concerning the field of moving images in the archive, and to relate their own research interests to these;

3. ability to reflect upon the role of film in the history of media shifts as well as on the technological conditions of the archive.

Assessment :

The viewing of film, television and other media throughout the course is mandatory and will be assessed on par with course literature. The course will be assessed in two parts: 1. A ten minute workshop presentation (individually or in group), and 2., a written essay assignment. Essays should be presented electronically and may be checked against plagiarism.

Skriftliga examinationsuppgifter ska författas och kunna presenteras elektroniskt. Kontroll av examinationsuppgifter kan komma att ske med verktyget Urkund. Eventuellt fusk, såsom plagiat, behandlas efter anmälan från prefekt/studierektor av universitetets Disciplinnämnd.

Students need to compose their written assignments so that they can be presented electronically, if the teacher so requires. Written exams may be scanned with the tool Urkund. Possible fraud, such as plagiarism, will be reported to the University Disciplinary Committee.

Assessment criteria
For goal-related 7-point grading scale

The assessment criteria below set out the minimum requirements for the different levels of grades awarded at the end of the course. These assessment criteria directly reflect the learning objectives of the course.

Advanced Level
Areas of assessment
- Scientific argumentation and analytical ability
- Theoretical and methodological awareness (independence, relevance and reflexivity)
- Relation of students' work to the course material (course literature and screenings)
- Appropriate level of discourse and written expression

A	In addition to the requirements for the attainment of a B grade, the degree project is distinguished by the following characteristics: • A distinctly independent, innovative and nuanced approach to argumentation and analysis. • The research problem is formulated with originality and clarity. • Thorough, innovative problematisation of the current research situation. • A particularly thorough and sustained analysis throughout all parts of the project. • A notably original and detailed problematisation of the course material.* • Impeccable written presentation; there is great accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.

B	In addition to the requirements for a C grade, the degree project is distinguished by the following characteristics: • An independent and nuanced approach to argumentation and analysis. • The research problem is formulated with originality as well as a critical perspective. • A detailed and independent explanation of the problem area together with a thorough problematisation of research in this field. • Convincing analysis and argumentation throughout the project. • An original and detailed problematisation of the course material.* • Impeccable written presentation; there is great accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.
C	In addition to the requirements for D, the degree project has the following characteristics: • Competent, consistent and balanced analysis and argumentation. • The research problem is formulated somewhat independently and takes account of previous research in this field. • The relevant aspects of the chosen problem area are thoroughly presented and explained. • Thorough and coherent analysis and argumentation throughout most of the project. • Competent problematisation of the course material.* • The written presentation has no major flaws; there is accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.
D	In addition to the requirements for the E grade, the degree project has the following characteristics: • The argumentation shows some analytical ability. • The research problem is clearly formulated and relevant to previous research in this field. • The main aspects of the chosen problem area are adequately presented and explained. • There is a coherent analysis and argumentation throughout most of the essay, including the discussion of research findings. • There is adequate and consistent treatment of the course material.* • The written presentation has no major flaws; there is accuracy in the provision of footnotes and references.
E	The degree project has the following characteristics: • There are noticeable limitations in analysis and argumentation. • The research problem is relevant to previous research in this field. • Basic aspects of the chosen problem area are adequately presented. • The use of the course material is limited but adequate.* • The project fulfils the basic requirements for academic writing, including a structured written presentation. • Written presentation has no major flaws; footnotes and references are provided with a fair degree of accuracy.
FX	Almost all of the criteria for E have been fulfilled, but some revision is required.

F	Most of the criteria for E have not been fulfilled and/or the student has not completed all course requirements. A full supplementary examination is required.

* The course material comprises course literature, screenings, etc.

For Chicago standard, see
<http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php>
<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html>

Plagiarism

As a student, you will be writing and handing different types of written tasks. It is therefore fundamental that you know that no kind of plagiarism is allowed.

Plagiarism consists of:
- Students copying from each other;
- Students copying from internet, books, articles or other sources without a clear reference;
- Students passing a work or a citation as their own when it is not;
- All kind of cut-and-paste writing strategies.

Any incident of this kind will be reported to the Disciplinary committee of Stockholm University. In case you are found guilty you might be suspended from the University for a period of time.

In order to avoid plagiarism you need to:
- Precise your sources by referring to the author, the book and the page in question;
- Mark that you are using someone else's words by marking it with a quotation mark;
- Precise whose thoughts you are presenting if they are not your own;
- Not pass your work to others.

Writing your own text in your own words is part of your learning process. This will develop your ability to think independently and express your thoughts in speech and writing.