

COCU 131
CINEMA OF THE CUBAN REVOLUTION
The Films of Gutiérrez Alea

UCSD, Dept of Communication, Spring 2008
Prof. Ariana Hernandez-Reguant
Office Info: Media Center #207. Tel. x26750. Email: ariana@ucsd.edu
Class meets on Wednesdays, 5-7:40 pm @ WLH 2204
Class consists of lecture, commented screenings, and collective discussion.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation: 20%
In-class midterm: 20%
Take-home Final exam: 60%

Required Materials:

Books are available for purchase at the Price Center bookstore, and on reserve at SSL:

Michael Chanan. *Cuban Cinema*. University of Minnesota Press.
Gutierrez Alea, Tomas and Edmundo Desnoes. *Memories of Underdevelopment and Inconsolable Memories*. Rutgers University Press.
Reinaldo Arenas. *Before Night Falls*. Penguin Books.
Ilf and Petrov. *The Twelve Chairs*. Northwestern University Press.
Lincoln Cushing. *Revolución! Cuban Poster Art*. Chronicle Books.

A reading package is available from University Readers.

Most films (but not all) are on reserve at the Film and Video Reserves.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 - April 2. Introduction to the Course

Week 2 - April 9. Audiovisual revolutionary culture

Screenings: *El Mégano* (Gutiérrez Alea, 1955) 25'
 En Un Barrio Viejo (Guillen Landrian 1963) 9'
 Por Primera Vez (Octavio Cortazar 1967). 9'

Hasta la Victoria Siempre (Santiago Alvarez 1967). 19'
Yanki No (Richard Drew 1960). selections.

- Readings:
- * Perez, "Socialist Cuba" (CP)
 - * Chanan, pp. 117-143, 184-246.
 - * Lincoln Cushing. *Revolución. Cuban Poster Art.*

Week 3 - April 16. Revolutionary change and every day life

Screening: *The Twelve Chairs* (1962) 90'

- Readings: * Ilf and Petrov. *The Twelve Chairs*

Week 4 - April 23. The dialectics of revolution. Utopia vs. Dystopia.

Screening: *Death of a Bureaucrat* (1966) 85'

Readings:

- * Richard Fagen. "Toward a New Political Culture, " and "The Campaign Against Literacy." (CP)
- * Ernesto Cardenal. "The People's Courts." (CP)
- * Loomis. "Revolution of Forms." (CP)
- * Ariana Hernandez-Reguant. "The Inventor, the Machine and the New Man." In *Cuba/USSR*. Palgrave (forthcoming in 2009). [to be downloaded from the Comm dept. webpage].

Week 5 - April 30. Intellectuals, Socialism and the New Man

Screening: *Memories of Underdevelopment* (1968) 104'

Readings:

- * *Memories of Underdevelopment and Inconsolable Memories*
- * Fidel Castro. Words to the Intellectuals (CP)
- * Ernesto Che Guevara. Socialism and Man in Cuba (CP)
- * Guillermo Cabrera Infante. Mea Cuba (CP)
- * Heberto Padilla. In Hard Times (CP)
- * David Craven. Art and Revolution in Latin America, pp. 75-94. (CP)

Week 6 - May 7. Perfecting Society with an Imperfect Cinema

Screening: *One Way or Another* (1974). 16mm. 70'

Readings:

- * Chanan, pp. 305-331, 395-417.
- * Gonzalez. "Sara one way or another" (CP)
- * Solanas and Getino. "Towards a Third Cinema." (CP)
- * Julio Garcia Espinosa. "For an Imperfect Cinema." (CP)
- * Julio Garcia Espinosa. "Meditations on Imperfect Cinema..." (CP)
- * C. Davis. "Modernity, masculinity and Imperfect Cinema in Cuba."(CP).

Week 7 - May 14. Bridging Social Divisions: Race, Class, Gender.

Screening: *Up to a Certain Point* (1983). 16mm, 79'

Readings:

- *Gutiérrez Alea. "The Viewers' Dialectic." (CP)
- * Chanan, pp. 402-409
- * Oscar Lewis. "Introduction to Four Women." (CP).
- * Roy MacBean. "A Dialogue with Tomas Gutierrez Alea." *Film Quarterly* 38 (3), pp. 22-29. Spring 1985. [Available through J Stor].

Week 8 – May 21. Revising Colonialism and the Slave Past

Screening: *The Last Supper* (1976). 110'

Readings:

- * Fernandez Retamar. "Caliban." (CP)
- * Moreno Friginals. "The Sugarmill." (CP)
- * Katherine Hagedorn. "The Birth of the Conjunto Folklorico." (CP).
- * Alejandro de la Fuente. "Building a Nation for All." (CP)

Week 9 - May 28. Sexuality and Revolution

Screening: *Strawberry and Chocolate* (1994) 104'

Readings:

- *Chanan, pp. 463-481.
- * Johannes Birringer. 1996. "Homosexuality and the Nation: An Interview with Jorge Perugorria." *The Drama Review (TDR)* 40 (1), pp. 61-76 [available online through J-Stor].
- * Enrico Mario Santi. 1998. "Fresa y Chocolate: The Rhetoric of Cuban Reconciliation." *MLN* 113, pp. 407-425. [available online through J-Stor]

- * Jose Quiroga. "Revolution, strawberry and chocolate" (CP)
- * Emilio Bejel. "The (auto)biography of a furious dissident" (CP)
- * Reinaldo Arenas. *Before Night Falls*. (selections)

Week 10- June 4. The Special Period. Revising the New Man.

Screening: *Guantanamo* (1995) 104'

Readings:

- * Pedro Juan Gutierrez. "Dirty Trilogy of Havana." Pp.42-115. or in Spanish: "Trilogia Sucia de La Habana," pp. 46-108. (Both items are on reserve at the SSH library – pick your preferred language and copy).
- * David Craven. "Art and Revolution," pp. 94-116 (CP)
- * Ariana Hernandez-Reguant. "Writing the Special Period;" Cristina Venegas. "Filmmaking with Foreigners;" and Antonio Eligio Fernandez Tonel. "Ending the Century with Memories." In *Cuba in the Special Period. Cuban Culture in the 1990s*. New York: Palgrave (forthcoming in 2009 [to be downloaded from the Comm webpage])
- * Gerardo Mosquera. "The New Cuban Art." In Alec Erjavec, ed. *Postmodernism and the Postsocialist Condition*. University of California Press. *available online through the library website:* <http://content.cdlib.org/view?docId=kt6j49q45x&chunk.id=ch06>

Take-Home Final Exam DUE JUNE 16th by 9am

(exam questions will be made available on Thursday June 12th at 9am on the Department of Communication's main office. Exams will be due on Monday June 16th by 9am at Media Center #207. No late exams will be accepted.)