

Avant-Garde Cinema

History, Themes, Textures A First Year Seminar

The cinema we frequently encounter in theaters and on television is full of stories comprised of discernible beginnings, middles, and (happy) endings. However, conventional narratives are but one approach to making films. For over a century, filmmakers have employed the medium of film to explore and broaden the limits of aural and visual perception, to invent new aesthetic forms and meanings of non-narrative cinema from the history, techniques, and politics. Students enrolled in this seminar will uncover the history, techniques, and meanings of "avant-garde," "underground," or "experimental," the films we will discuss are international in scope and represent major chapters in the century-old history of this "minor cinema." Seminar participants will develop in the course of the semester a critical vocabulary for making sense of these works and will articulate their own analyses in writing and their own video essays.

Tuesdays / Thursdays 12:30 - 1:45
Professor Richard Langston

GSLI 60
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Dey Hall 401

