

6X1: Variations on the One-Minute Film
FST: 334 SPRING 2011
KE 1114 Mon. 6:15 – 9:00pm

Instructor: Andre Silva
Office Hours: Mon 3:00-5:00pm
www.mothership6X1.blogspot.com

Cameras do not make films. Filmmakers make films – improve your films not by adding more equipment and personnel, but by using what you have to the fullest capacity. The most important part of your equipment is yourself – your mobile body – your imaginative mind – and your freedom to use both. – Maya Deren

You must be present to win – Various Raffle Contests

INTRODUCTION: This class is about warming up, stretching out, getting you to think on your feet quickly (but not sloppily) and creatively. It's about brainstorming ideas, techniques and approaches in order to engage in a process of discovery. What works? What doesn't? And why? Though this class approaches the technical aspects of filmmaking from an experimental perspective, you will get the most out of this class by putting any preconceived notions of experimental film on hold and simply enjoying the ride. At the end of the semester, you will leave this class with several alternative filmmaking tools at your disposal to add a unique aesthetic to future films of *any* genre.

We will make 6 one-minute projects on both film and video. The goal is to expand our creative film/video making abilities through the exploration of various conceptual and technological approaches to moving image production. Each assignment will be a stand-alone project meaning that each will be a different experiment in new and older technologies and aesthetic approaches.

OVERVIEW & EXPECTATIONS: Plan to show up for class ready to get your hands dirty. You will spend the majority of class time painting, processing, shooting or otherwise actively exploring some new aspect of film art. This course encourages an immediate, intuitive approach to filmmaking and to get as many ideas on the table as possible, however, you are expected to follow the sometimes strict guidelines of the assignments. In addition, the class should strengthen your degree of comfort and craft in relation to film technologies.

Furthermore, this class takes an interdisciplinary approach to learning in the sense that we will sometimes venture outside the realm of film/video, so that we can then come back and look at how we construct and view film from a fresh and more holographic perspective.

GRADING: Each of the 6 assignments is worth 10 points. You will also be expected to keep a vlog /blog (which I have explained, in detail, below). This online journal and your participation will comprise the remaining 40 percent.

The breakdown is as follows:

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Projects 1 – 6 | 60% |
| Vlog / Blog | 20% |
| Participation | 20% |

GRADES: Because of the nature of this class, you will *not* be graded on any aesthetic criteria but rather on your completion of projects (and on having satisfied all project requirements), your participation in class and your willingness to jump into the unknown. If you really put your heart into the class and projects, you will do well. Don't worry about "getting it right" but don't half-ass it either.

A=100-93, A-=92-90, B+=89-87, B=86-84, B-=83-80, C+=79-77, C=76-74, C-=73-70, D+=69-67, D=66-64, D-=63-60, F=59 and below

VLOG / BLOG: On the class schedule, you will find a blog topic for each week for which you should write a (roughly) 400-word (or more) response - or you may create the equivalent in a video response (vlog). For each week that you vlog/blog, you receive one or two points of credit on your final grade. Your blog will not be graded on content or grammar but should help you reflect on what you're doing in this class and as such is a valuable tool to help you absorb class activities more dimensionally. Because the purpose of this blog is to track your experience throughout the semester, your blog posts must be published by class time on the week they are due. There is no mid-term or final exam in this class but I consider the blog to be a pretty close substitute – except there are no wrong answers! So don't slack. Just do it ☺! We will discuss how to create a blog/vlog on the first day of class.

READINGS: Though there are no assigned textbooks for this class, there are required readings on my website (www.silvacine.com then click on "courses"). Sometimes, we will discuss the readings in class. Often, I will most likely assign a reading response for you to post on your blog.

OUTSIDE CLASS COMMUNICATION: Since this class meets only once a week, I will keep you updated on and reminded of any class-related issues via UNCW e-mail. **Please regularly check this e-mail so that you are never out of the loop.**

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: This is a workshop class so participation is extremely important. A fifth of your grade comes from participation. You have to be present to participate and you have to actively and constructively engage in class discussions.

Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one free absence (including sickness and emergencies). A second absence results in a 3-point deduction from the participation portion of your final grade. A third absence results in a final grade of "F." If you are 15 or more minutes late for class, you will be counted absent. If you foresee any problems with your regularly being on time for class (i.e. you are running across campus from another class that just let out) you'll need to see me about these issues immediately.

TARDINESS: If you're late (i.e. miss attendance at the beginning of class) twice, those two tardies add up to one unexcused absence. After that, if you miss attendance, you're counted absent. Note that tardiness affects your participation grade.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE ASSIGNED DATE. No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. No exceptions other than for family tragedy or medical emergencies (with documentation).

MY OFFICE HOURS: Please e-mail me if you have questions about assignments or your progress in this class. I would be happy to meet with you during my office hours or even before or after class.
