ANT 4391, Anthropology through Film, Spring Semester 2011, 3 credits
Tuesdays only, 2:00 – 4:45 pm - Room: A1 – 227
Jerry Brown, Ph.D., Office hours – Tu/Th 12:30 – 1:30 pm, Office: A1 - 376
Phone: (305) 993-5140. E-mail: jbbrown@gate.net

DESCRIPTION – Explores select 20th and 21st century films, though “the anthropologist’s eye” as unique windows into American history and culture. Students will critically analyze how American cultural and social conflicts are portrayed and resolved in popular films. Students will learn how to “read” Hollywood films as cultural texts within the frameworks of Campbell’s monomyth of “the hero’s journey” and of Brown’s “wave theory of American history.”

TEXTS REQUIRED:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
1) Participation: attendance, essays, and power point presentation (25 points)
2) Final Examination based on films and readings (25 points)
3) Final Paper: 2-page Outline and 12-page Paper (50 points)
   Note: power point presentations are based on final paper topics
4) Attendance Required – class roll taken (see Class Rules)

Week (Date) SCHEDULE: FILMS, READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES

1 1/10
Introduction and Overview of Class Outline
Through the Ethnographer’s Eye
Film: Nanook of the North (1922, 80 min), classic documentary film

2 1/17
Monomyth of the Hero’s Journey
Clip: Star Wars - The Phantom Menace Review (web)
Lecture: Joseph Campbell – The Monomyth of The Hero’s Journey (handout)
(Examples: Wizard of Oz, State of Siege, Avatar, and many others)
Read: Skim Mintz text before class meeting
Brainstorm and Discuss: Topics and questions for Final Paper/Power Point

3 1/24
Science Fiction
Film: Selections from Inception (2010, 148 min)
Read: Mintz, Preface and Introduction
Lecture and Discussion: Ray Kurzweil, The Singularity is Near

* All films are on reserve for viewing in BBC Library under my name and course number.
4 1/31  
**1940s: Wartime Hollywood**  
Film: *Casablanca* (1942, 102 min)  
Read: Mintz, Chs. 10 & 11  
**Due: Outlines for Final Papers / Power Point (2 pages max)**

5 2/7  
**1950s: Cold War Paranoia**  
Film: *Dr. Strangelove* (1964, 94 min)  
Read: Mintz, Chs. 15 & 16 and Ch. 21  
**Return: Outlines for Final Papers / Power Point**

6 2/14  
**1960s: Alienation and Youth Rebellion / Music and Film**  
Film: *The Graduate* (1969, 105 min)  
Read: Mintz, Ch. 22

7 2/21  
Read: Mintz, Ch. 25  
**Read aloud and Discuss:** First non-graded, two-page, film-reaction essay on “Which of the above films affected me most personally and why”?  
**Films:** Nanook, Casablanca, Strangelove, Graduate

8 2/28  
**1980s: Yuppies and Return of Conservative Culture**  
Film: *Wall Street* (1987, 126 min) and Wall Street Redux  
Read: Mintz, Ch 23: 264-271.

9 3/6  
**1990s: Desperately Seeking Youth, Power, Integrity**  
Film: *American Beauty* (1999, 120 min)  

10 3/13  
**SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS MEETING / FIU CLOSED**
11 3/20  **2000s: Globalization the Clash of Cultures**  
Film: *Crash* (2004, 104 min)  
Read: Mintz, Chs. 29 & 30

12 3/27  **21st Century Preview: Post-Modern Deconstruction of Reality**  
Film: *Pulp Fiction* (1994, 154 min) – Selection from Part I only  
Read: Mintz: Ch. 19, Ch. 24, and Ch. 31  
Read aloud and Discuss: Second non-graded, two-page, film-reaction essay on “Which of the above films affected me most personally and why”?  
Films: *Wall Street, American Beauty, Clash, Pulp Fiction*

13 4/3  **Student Power Point Presentations and Discussions**

14 4/10  **Student Power Point Presentations and Discussions**

15 4/17  **Student Power Point Presentations and Discussions**  
All Papers Due

16 4/24  **FINAL EXAMINATION** – Tuesday, April 24, 2:15 pm
As affirmed by the Chair of the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Vice President for Student Affairs of Florida International University, a faculty member has the right to establish the rules for student behavior in the classroom (“Rules”). In order to avoid any possible misunderstandings, and to insure a positive learning environment for all students, the Rules for this class are as follows:

1) **Rules for Student Behavior**
   a) Students may arrive late for class; however, students may not leave while class is in session.
   b) Students may not talk, or interact with each other in any manner, during class sessions (except as part of class discussions), or engage in any other activities that will, in the sole judgment of the instructor, disturb the learning environment.
   c) Students may not have cell phones on, or view cell phones, or talk on cell phones in class, or leave the classroom during class sessions to take cell phone calls. Same for laptop computers and all other communications devices – except for note taking with permission of instructor.

2) **Consequences for Violation of above Rules**
   a) Any student who violates rules a), b) and/or c) above will face the following consequences:
      1) First time violation – verbal warning from the instructor.
      2) Second time violation – written warning from the instructor.
      3) Third time violation – written report to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary action and/or removal from the class.
      4) Any student who disturbs the classroom environment in way that, in the sole judgment of the instructor, undermines the learning environment in ways that are explicitly covered in these written Rules, or in any other way that may not be explicitly covered by these written rules, may be required to leave the class and/or referred to the Office of the Vice President for disciplinary action.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED:** Class roll will be taken beginning in Week 2. Any student who misses more than three (3) classes will not pass this course. There will be no exceptions, except for documented medical absences.