ANTH 309
ANTHROPOLOGY AND FILM AND VIDEO

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course explores the earliest uses of film by anthropologists dating from the turn of the 20th century to the production of video by contemporary anthropologists and filmmakers. Careful viewing of over 25 films, in connection to related class discussions, and in combination with reading and lecture materials, are the building blocks for the case studies presented over the term. In each of these units, the work of particular anthropologists and filmmakers, and the relationship between their work and anthropology is explored.

The course will consider the mid-century films and the anthropological theories that underpinned them as well as the exploration of filmmaking methodologies to express ideas and concepts about culture. We will continue to explore the role of anthropological theory in the context of film/video making, and examine the emerging role of television media and its impact on visual anthropology. Methodologies that embrace ideas of collaboration in filmmaking between peoples/communities and filmmakers are also taken up through films and readings.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- understand anthropological approaches to the use of film and video as methods for representing culture
- understand how anthropological theories of culture have intersected with the production of film and video by anthropologists and others
- understand the changing relationship between Indigenous peoples and media
- develop skills in critically analyzing writings and audiovisual material about culture
- analyze both historical and contemporary visual media from an anthropological perspective