
FILM DIRECTORS: AGNES VARDA in Spring 2021 (FM2800)

Course Code	FM2800	Professor(s)	Valérie Berty
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L20
Class Schedule	M: 12:10-13:30 in G-113 R: 09:00-10:20 in G-113	Office Hours	https://aup.libcal.com/a ppointments/.....
Credits	4	Email	vberty@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	621

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Agnès Varda is one of the most influential international filmmakers working today. Varda's first film, the 1956 release, *La Pointe Courte*, is considered the unofficial start of the French New Wave and her work since has continued to evolve in response to the changing world around her. To survey Varda's work is to dive deep into an active artistic practice of more than 50 years, engage important cinematic questions around politics and aesthetics, exploring intrusion and marginality in society and cinematic form. The course uses close analysis, critical review, writing in the discipline, curatorial and presentational skills while fostering a creative, supportive community in the major. Filmmakers in the class will be inspired by the development of Varda's conceptual and aesthetic approaches; scholars will be inspired by the many layers of critical engagement alive in Varda's work and approach.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will develop a strong understanding of the work of a major international filmmaker.
Students will sharpen their close analysis skills in unpacking Varda's film language.
Students will recognize structural film elements and analyze how Agnes Varda uses and transforms those elements to make meaning.
Students will strengthen their critical analysis and written and oral expression.

General Education

The course also supports these FILM STUDIES LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Analyze and differentiate filmic discourses on subjects in terms of narrative structure, cinematic techniques, and cultural contexts. (FM LO1)
- Trace the rise and development of contemporary cinema as art form, industry and cultural product. (FM LO2)
- Distinguish individual styles and techniques of selected directors and place the work in context with cinema history and aesthetics. (FM LO3)
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of and ability to produce film language. (FM L04)

Course Outline

OUTLINE: Course Calendar - an updated syllabus will exist online and may shift to accommodate class needs. Syllabus can be subject to changes.

Mon, 3:20 – 4:40

Thu 09 :00 – 10 :20

January

Week I – 18th – 22nd

Monday, January 18, 2021

Presentation

Homework:

- read Kelley Conway, “Agnès Varda”, p.1-9.

Thursday, January 21, 2021.

Topic: Agnes Varda's biography

- class: Screening, first 20 minutes of La Pointe Courte (1954).

Homework:

- finish La Pointe Courte
- read Conway, p.9-26
- choose a scene and be to explain orally why you chose it

January 24th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II – 25th – 29th

Monday, January 25, 2021

Class : scenes analysis, La Pointe Courte

Homework:

- read article from Agnès Varda, Interviews, p.IX-3 (articles will be given)

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Topic: Film funding systems, Varda as reframer of expectation and French

monuments.

Class : screening Ô saisons, Ô châteaux (1957)

Homework:

- read: Conway, p. 26-31
- watch: l'Opéra Mouffe, (1958)

February

Week III – 1st – 5th

Monday, February 1, 2021

Discussion: l'Opéra Mouffe

Homework:

- read Cleo Interview, p. 17-37
- watch Cleo from 5 to 7 (1962)

Thursday, February 4, 2021

Class: Cleo from 5 to 7

Homework:

- read Flitterman-Lewis, Sandy. "From Dessee to Idee: Cleo from 5 to 7." *To Desire Differently: Feminism and the French Cinema* (1996)
- watch again: Cleo
- answer the questionnaire on worksheet

Week IV – 8th – 12th

Monday, February 8, 2021. February 8th – 10th, Mini break 1, (no classes)

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Topic: Meditations in Form: Society and who gets seen

Homework:

- prepare a scene for an oral presentation

Week V – 15th – 19th

Monday, February 15, 2021

Topic: Oral presentation on Cleo

Homework:

- watch Le Bonheur (1965)
- read Conway, "Interviews with A. Varda", p. 38-56

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Topic: Feminism and Social Constraint

Homework:

- Le Bonheur, discuss from the article: "Unhappily ever after: visual irony and feminist strategy in Agnès Varda's Le Bonheur, Rebecca J. DeRoo Washington University in St Louis.

Homework:

- watch: Daguerreotypes (1976)

Week VI – 22nd – 26th

Monday, February 22, 2021

Topic: Daguerreotypes, Varda, Community and Place

Homework:

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- watch: L'une chante, l'autre pas, One Sings, The Other Doesn't (1977)
 - read, Interviews, L'une chante, l'autre, One Sings p.92-101
- Thursday, February 25, 2021 February 24th – 28th, Mini break 2, (no classes)

March

Week VII – 1st – 5th

Monday, March 1, 2021

Discussion: L'une chante, l'autre pas

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Topic: French feminism through Varda's eyes.

Homework:

- read: Interviews, "A very worthy young woman", p.156-159

Week VIII – 8th – 12th

Monday, March 8, 2021

Topic: Varda as folksinger: Self-Reflexive Performance and direct address.

Class: reading: Interviews, "Agnes Varda talks about the cinema", p. 64-77

Homework:

- watch: Le Lion volatil, (2003)

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Topic: Le Lion volatil, The Fabricated Real - Interviews and Documentary as Fictional Social Form

- watch: Mur Murs, (1981)

- read, Interviews, « Interview with Agnès Varda, » p.108-117

Week IX – 15th – 19th

Monday, March 15, 2021

Discussion, Varda in Los Angeles, Mur Murs

Homework:

- choose a scene Mur Murs

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Oral presentations: Mur Murs

Homework:

- read, Interviews: "The Modest gesture of the Filmmaker: an interview with A. Varda, p. 173-182

Week X – 22nd – 26th

Monday, March 22, 2021

lecture: Varda and the New Wave

Homework:

- read, Interviews, « Varda: Mother of the new wave", p.53-63

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Lecture: Varda and the Black Panthers movement

Homework:

- watch: Black Panthers, (1968)

Week XI – 29th – 2nd

Monday, March 29, 2021

Guest: Catherine Ruelle : « Varda political engagement »

Homework:

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- watch : Sans Toit ni loi, (Vagabond), (1985) First 20minutes

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Lecture : Sans Toit ni loi

Homework:

- watch : Sans Toit ni loi, (Vagabond), (1985)
- read, Conway, « Vagabond, p. 56-71

April

Week XII – 5th – 9th

Monday, April 5, 2021 (no classes)

Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Discussion: Sans Toit ni loi: Feminism and the French Cinema

Homework:

- watch: The Gleaners and I (2000)
- read: Convey, p.71-89

April 6th, Faculty retreat (no classes)

Week XIII – 12th – 16th

Monday, April 12, 2021

2021.

Discussion, The Gleaners and I

Homework:

- Choose a scene from : Sans toi ni loi OR Les glaneur et la glaneuse

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Class: Scene presentations

Homework:

- watch, Les plages d'Agnès Varda, (2008)
- read, Conway, p. 108-128

Week XIV – 19th – 23rd

Monday, April 19, 2021.

Discussion : Les plages d'Agnès Varda

Homework :

- Think of ideas for final paper

Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Topic: class discussion and ideas for final paper

Homework:

- watch: Varda's last movies, Visages. Villages, (2017)

Week XV – 26th – 30th

Monday, April 26, 2021 –

Topic: Varda last movie: Visages. Villages

April 28th, Last day of classes, April 29th, – May 2nd, Reading days (May 1st, holiday)

May 3rd – 12th, **Final Exam: EXAM DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
AGNES VARDA	CONWAY, KELLY	UNIV OF ILLI PRESS	9780252081200	Yes
AGNES VARDA: INTERVIEWS	KLINE, JEFFERSON	UNIV OF MINNESOTA	9781617039201	Yes

Attendance Policy

AUP ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at the American University of Paris are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions. Therefore, unless an individual professor decides otherwise, four unexcused absences from single period classes or two unexcused absence from double period classes will automatically result in the student receiving an F grade in that course. Students should consult the complete attendance policy in the student handbook.

The French Department has its own attendance policy. Students are responsible for compliance.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

Student Affairs will *recommend* that a professor excuse an absence for the following reason only: Involuntary absences due to illness or personal emergencies, upon presentation of documentary proof of illness or emergency.

Religious and National Holidays:

Due to the large number of nationalities and faiths represented at the University, religious and national holidays (other than those on the academic schedule) will not be excused by Student Affairs.

Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Lateness to course meetings:

If a student arrives at course meetings more than 10 minutes late without documentation for one of the above scenarios, it will be considered an *unexcused* absence. All documentation must be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs within ONE WEEK following the first day of the absence.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence (excused or unexcused) is accepted or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive excused and unexcused absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend the withdrawal of a student whose absences from any course, ***excused or not***, have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level. The professor may consult with Student Affairs for additional information.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and **especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods**.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example, when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely

from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT:

As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

GRADING POLICY:

Attendance, oral participation, oral analysis - 50%

Oral presentations - 25 % Final paper, 5-7 pages 25%

A- to A = 90 to 100, Outstanding work B- to B+ = 80 to 89, Very good work

C- to C+ = 70 to 79, Satisfactory D- to D+ = 60 to 69, Insufficient work

F 59 and below (or three missed classes), Failure

Other

OFFICE HOURS: I enjoy meeting with students and want you to succeed in this class. Don't hesitate to ask for my help if there is something you feel is unclear or want to discuss further. Office hours are great for this. My office hours can be scheduled here: <https://aup.libcal.com/appointments/.....> If my office hours are in conflict with another class and you cannot meet during this time, please let me know.