NYU DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & CULTURAL ANALYSIS (SCA)

Winter 2014
January 6 – January 24, 2014

Undergraduate Course Descriptions

Tpcs in Met Studies: Cinema and Contemporary Urbanism — SCA-UA 680
Monday and Wednesday 2:00pm-5:40pm; Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am-2:00pm

Prof. Sandhu

This class explores critical issues in contemporary urbanism through the prism of a diverse and international body of cutting-edge documentary and feature films. Drawing on an equally broad range of theoretical and historical texts, we will investigate topics such as psychogeography, catacombism, landscape hacking, surveillance, slum urbanism and many more. We will also look at the specific role of cinema in generating, framing and circulating emergent notions about the modern city. Films to be studied may include: ‘The Gleaners and I’, ‘Children of Men’, ‘Manufactured Landscapes’, ‘Helvetica’, ‘War In Mostar’. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AMST, APA, MET, SCA; Counts as Comm Elect for SCA majors only)

Afro-Latin Soundscapes — SCA-UA 721
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:30am-2:00pm

Prof. Robbins

SAME AS SPAN-UA 552 How does what you listen to shape your sense of self? How do we relate to each other through music? And how does music cross linguistic, political, social, and ethnic boundaries? This course will take up some of these questions as it explores a few historical instances in which music has traveled extensively, finding listeners in a wide array of places. We will revisit the reception and performance of different musics in the Americas and beyond to consider how rhythms and compositions were resituated in different contexts, with particular concern for their roles in bridging between members of the African diaspora. Throughout the course, we’ll listen to musical examples from Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, New Orleans, New York, Senegal, and the Ivory Coast, while reading interventions by critics and musicians regarding these musics, their contexts, and their theoretical implications. (Counts as elective for these SCA majors/minors: AFRS, LAT)