

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

## **FILM-215**

### **History of Avant-Garde Film**

**3 Semester Hours**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

This course is an interdisciplinary study of the history of avant-garde film. Works include documentary, experimental, and autobiographical film, travelogues, archival newsreels, animation, and other forms of nonfiction cinema. Students will study the traditions, aesthetics, influences, and historical content of these films as a viable form of creative cinema. (3 hours weekly)

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Develop a general knowledge avant-garde film from the 1920s to the present.
2. Discuss the influence of the avant-garde on cinematography, visual effects and editing.
3. Analyze the commercialization of the form as it has filtered into music video, television advertising, and title design.
4. Distinguish different cinematic styles and genres of avant-garde cinema by decade.
5. Discuss the styles of the most important and influential avant-garde directors (such as Kathryn Bigelow, Curtis Harrington, Peter Greenaway, Derek Jarman, Jean Cocteau, Isaac Julien, Sally Potter, David Lynch, Gus Van Sant and Luis Buñuel, etc.)
6. Compare and contrast mainstream films made by avant-garde filmmakers.

### **Major Topics**

- I. The European avant-garde
- II. The postwar American avant-garde
- III. The New American Cinema and Structural-Materialism
- IV. The 1970s and time arts in the conceptual art landscape
- V. Feminist avant-garde and other political offshoots
- VI. Experimental Film
- VII. Influences on commercial media

### **Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but may include a researched essay, oral presentation, and regular exams.

**Other Course Information**

This course is an Arts and Sciences, Fine Arts and Humanities Elective.