

# FILM MEMO - AFRICA 2020

**Professors: Lerato SHADI, Laure ASSAYAG-GILLOT**

**Academic Year 2020/2021: Spring Semester**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This workshop series will be a look at film making as a performative expression of writing by means of the moving image. The stance from where this journey is initiated can be manifold, introspective reasons of writing as an expression of oneself or an outward-looking approach to tell a story to an audience. It comes with the pivotal notion and understanding of writing as a format that allows you to turn complex ideas and examine independent thinking. The filmic notation as a method and medium will be thoroughly analysed.

### Academic expectations

Students have to carry out the required readings, work continuously on their project, and watch the requested material. Seminars will be discussion-based - it means that we will have an interactive pedagogy. Additionally, every student is strongly encouraged to share material and ideas with fellow students on discussion forums, via email, skype or common groups. Since it is an intensive workshop, students are asked to carry out as much independent research as possible to develop their creative practice and theoretical thinking around their project.

- 1) **Practical Exercise (50%): *Statement of Intent* (25%):** one page written detailing your personal intentions and ideas for your project. You would have to present theoretical insights and practical ideas which are being implemented, based on the material from this syllabus. ***Sound recording* (25%):** collective or individual exercise of sound recording (less than 1 minute), to be presented and discussed in class.
- 2) **Project (50%):** the project will consist in an individual or collective short film of minimum 1 minute and maximum 5 minutes. The aim of this project is to help you find your own voice, based on your personal experience. You are free to film footage with various means (smartphone, movie camera...) and video editing is not necessary. Projects can be released either in French or English. Grades will be based on your progress and involvement in your project throughout the workshop. You are requested to present orally in one minute your finished film in front of a wide audience, at the end of the workshop. This presentation will happen on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>, at 18.30 PM**. During this short presentation, it is expected that to explain how your initial statement of intent has been modified by your own practice and what creative process you followed.
- 3) **Participation (10%):** students' engagement, participation to group exercises, answering questions, final oral presentation.

**Contact details:** In between the classes, do not hesitate to contact us on [mail@leratoshadi.art](mailto:mail@leratoshadi.art) or [laure.assayaggillot@sciencespo.fr](mailto:laure.assayaggillot@sciencespo.fr) if you need clarification on the workshop or the exercise. Please note that we reply quicker to emails.

**Late work policy**

A final project should be realized within the requested timeframe, which means that your project should be complete at the end of the workshop on **Thursday**, in order to be able to present it to the team of Africa 2020 on Thursday evening. Hence, there is no late work policy.

**Late arrival policy**

Class attendance is mandatory. If a student is marked absent 2 or more classes, without obtaining the professors' concurrence, then he (or she) may be dropped from this class or receive a lower course grade at the discretion of the professors. Therefore, you must notify us in advance if you anticipate missing a class.

**Detailed outline**

**Session 1: Situated Gaze: Brainstorming on your Project**  
**(Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM – 2 PM)**

*Readings*

- Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger," *Women's Studies Quarterly*, Spring - Summer, 1997, Vol. 25, No. 1/2, Looking Back, Moving Forward: 25 Years of Women's Studies History, Spring - Summer 1997, pp. 278-285.
- Donna Haraway, "The Persistence of Vision," in "Situated Knowledge: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspectives," *Feminist Studies*, Autumn 1988, vol. 14, no. 3, pp. 581-587.
- Jyoti Mistry and Antje Schuhmann, and al. (ed.), "Introduction," in "By Way of Context and Content," in *Gaze Regimes*, Johannesburg: Wits University Press, 2006, pp. ix-xiv.
- Aleida Assman, "Collective Memory: A Spurious Notion?," in "Transformations between History and Memory," *Transformations between History and Memory, Social Research*, Spring 2008, vol. 75, no. 1, pp. 49-52.

*Assignments*

Class discussion

Group Brainstorming on your project

**Homework: Sound Recording (less than 1 minute)**

**Session 2: Memory & History: Finding Your Creative Voice**  
**(Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM – 2 PM)**

*To go further*

- [Tacita Dean – FILM, 2011 | Tate - YouTube](#)
- ['Undead Sun' \(teaser clip 1\) Jane & Louise Wilson, 2014 - YouTube](#)
- [To Speak A Language, 2012 - Vimeo](#)

*Assignments*

Presenting your Sound Recording

Group discussion on your homework

Group discussion on projects

**Homework: Writing your Statement of Intent**

**Session 3: Where Do You Go From Here? Developing your Artistic Practice**  
**(Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM – 2 PM)**

*To go further*

- [Wangechi Mutu + Santigold - The End of eating Everything, 2013 - YouTube](#)
- [Theo Eshetu, KISS THE MOMENT, 2015, Extract – \(vimeo.com\)](#)
- [Mise-en-scène, 2019 | Zineb Sedira](#)
- [Excerpt from Elizabeth Price, STILETTO from FOOTNOTES series, 2020 - YouTube](#)

*Assignments*

Presenting your Statement of Intent

Group Discussion on your homework

Group Discussion

**Homework: Filming one Gesture** (around 10 seconds)

**Session 4: The Exhibition Place: Sharing Your Artwork**  
**(Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 12 PM – 2 PM)**

*To go further*

- Nathalie Heinrich, "Mapping intermediaries in contemporary art according to pragmatic sociology. European Journal of Cultural Studies," 2012, 15 (6), HAL, <https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-01202777/document>, pp. 7-10.
- [Laboratoire Kontempo – Exposition virtuelle \(labkontempo.com\)](#)
- [Bandjoun Station, "laboratoire sans frontières" | Africultures](#)

*Assignments*

Exhibiting your work

Pitching your work in 1-2 min

(Explain how your initial statement of intent has evolved)

Final Group Discussion