Cinematic Cities: Urban Representation in Film and Photography

Summer Semester :: 3 Credits :: Wednesday 18:00 – 21:00 :: Virtual Platform

Instructor: Ralph Stern :: ralph.stern@umanitoba.ca
ARCG 7070 T47 (elective or history/theory credits)
EVDS 3710 T21

Overview: This course introduces students to the central importance and influence of cinema in constructing and comprehending urban environments. Addressing cities in an international context (Europe, Latin and North America, Asia, and North Africa) this seminar will provide a structured and historical overview of seminal filmic representations of urban pasts, presents, and futures.

A central objective of the course is to provide students with the knowledge of ‘seeing’ cinema as both an interpretive art form and an investigative tool. Together these can embody and expand design intentions intersecting urban, architectural, interior, and landscape narratives; narratives intersecting individual, social and cultural fears and aspirations spanning from the dystopian to the utopian.

Deliverables: Attendance, film screenings, discussion participation and a term paper constitute the course requirements. The paper will focus on either one film of significance and its intersection with an urban environment, or it may be a comparative study of two films. Individual topics will be developed in consultation with the Instructor. Students with an interest in urban photography are also welcomed.

Questions: Are always welcome, please don’t be shy. For students interested in the Course Outline or any other pertinent enquiries, please feel free to contact me at my email address: ralph.stern@umanitoba.ca

Instructor: Ralph Stern has lectured on cinematic representation at the Technical University Berlin, the University of the Arts Berlin, Columbia University, Yale University, M.I.T., the Cities Program at the London School of Economics and the University of Manitoba. He has published on cinematic representation in the AA Files and Cinema Journal among other venues. His own photographic work has been exhibited and published in numerous venues in Europe and North America.