

University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

FILM 409.14 L01 - Special Topics in Film Studies (The Diary Film: Kino Delirium)

SPRING 2022: May 2nd to May 6th

Lecture: MTWRF 09:00 to 17:00

This course will be delivered in person

Instructor:	Guy Maddin
Office:	SS 202
Email:	guyxmaddin@gmail.com TA: berenice.cancino@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	N/A

Course Description

Students will learn how to diarize their lives through video, starting with short, primitively edited experiential sequences shot and edited on smart phone, and evolving into brief memory and sensory studies that reveal the prose poetry in everyday life. By course's end, each student will have constructed short, personal cine-essays on a wide and wild range of subjects in which the student/artist is always reflected, no matter how honest or dishonest they choose to be. The course includes numerous film screenings to remind those enrolled how alchemical film can be; how truths emerge even when facts don't want to be filmed! Students will share their film work with classmates and reveal choices made during filming, sometimes inadvertently and secretly revealing to themselves the reasons behind life choices made years earlier.

Mornings will be spent watching outside clips and screening the completed student assignments. Afternoons and evenings the students are to head off on their own to shoot and edit their assignments. Instructor will be available from 9am-9pm for advice. Please contact via email to arrange for remote or in-person consultation.

Additional Information

The weekly screenings can be found at the end of this outline or on D2L. All components of the course are synchronous.

Students are responsible for reading and following all course and university policies discussed in this outline.

Objectives of the Course

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Familiarize themselves with a variety of films
- Create short videos that diarize their lives
- Edit short videos recorded with smartphones
- Construct a personal, autobiographical short

Textbooks and Readings

No textbook required

Learning Technologies and Requirements

In order to complete courses, University of Calgary students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates, with current antivirus software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection, and a current and updated web browser;
- A webcam (built-in or external), and a microphone and speaker (built-in or external) or headset with microphone (for online synchronous courses only).

For the purposes of this course, students will require access to a smartphone with a functioning video camera. If you need access to other software programs to complete assignments, your instructor will provide relevant information and links.

If you have technical difficulties, contact IT support services. See

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/student-campus-services-information-technologies-it.html>

Policy on the Use of Electronic Communication Devices

Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on the recording of lectures, which is outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>, and carefully review the section on Instructor Copyright at the end of this outline.

Assignments and Evaluation

Weight	Assessed Components	Due
25%	A-to-B Film Walk from one point in your personal geography to another, A-to-B, shooting quick (.3 to 3 seconds duration) smart-phone shots documenting your progress through this autobiographical space. Cut the shots together in order. Add music or don't add music, or deliver two versions, with or without music. Running time: 1-2 minutes.	May 3 rd
25%	Randomly Culled Childhood Memory Write a one-paragraph account of one of your earliest childhood memories. Randomly remove two-thirds of the sentences, or (to be more radical) even two-thirds of the words, from your written account. Read the result out loud, recording your voice as the narration for your film. Next: Assemble images to illustrate or to play in visual counterpoint to your narration. Images may be stills or video clips from the internet; or original footage shot by you; or old home videos — try almost any image you feel like using. Add music and sound effects. <u>Running time: 2-3 minutes.</u>	May 4 th

25%	<p>Random Subject Film Essay</p> <p>Students will be given three random subjects (supplied by classmates and then drawn lottery-style) about which they must complete a wildly paranoid film-essay riff, making connections between their three subjects, no matter how far their connections stretch plausible relevance. On the day the random subjects are assigned, students will have a 15-minute period during which they can trade subjects with their classmates.</p> <p><u>Running time: 2-5 minutes</u></p>	May 5 th
25%	<p>CrimeStoppers-style Reenactment of Autobiographical Memory</p> <p>Take an autobiographical memory involving personal embarrassment or humiliation - in other words, a crime against your dignity or pride. Cast friends as actors in a reenactment of the episode. Shoot, direct, edit and narrate the humiliating incident as if it were a classic TV CrimeStoppers PSA. (see below)</p> <p><u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-M_OwpV9J34</u></p> <p><u>Running time: 4-6 minutes</u></p>	May 6 th by noon

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

If your class is held in the evening, the Registrar's Office will attempt to schedule the final exam in the evening, but there is no guarantee that the exam will NOT be scheduled during the day.

Note: You must complete all assignments and exams or a course grade of F may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

Submission of Assignments

Please submit all assignments in class or by uploading them to the designated Dropbox, which will be notified to you during class. Include your name and ID number on all assignments. Be sure to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to submit the proper version.

Private information related to individual students is treated with the utmost regard by University of Calgary faculty. Student assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty, and personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. Please note that instructors may use audio or video recording for lesson capture, assessment of student learning, and self-assessment of teaching practices.

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of 5% or a partial letter grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. For the full policy on Student Accommodations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) or another legitimate reason should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should provide supporting documentation to support their request; however, instructors may not require a medical note. For information on the use of a statutory declaration, see the *University Calendar*:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Expectations for Writing

Department policy directs that all written assignments and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization and proper documentation of research sources. For further information, please refer to the *University of Calgary Calendar* section on writing across the curriculum: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

Grading & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grade Scale

The following table outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. Final grades are reported as letter grades. For components graded using percentages or numerical scores, those values will be used directly in calculating the final course grade, while for components graded using letter grades, the letter grades will be converted to the midpoint values listed in the final column of the table below in calculating the final course grade.

In this course, numerical and percentage grades will be used for assignments and will be converted into the letter values of the chart below:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations*
4.00	Outstanding performance	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent performance	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70	Approaching excellent performance	A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30	Exceeding good performance	B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good performance	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70	Approaching good performance	B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance	C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory performance	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance	C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00	Minimal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.	F	0 - 49.99%	0%

- * Column 4: If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades. Column 5: These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. **In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin.** Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there.

For information on citation and documentation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, IEEE, etc.), visit the Student Success Centre resource links at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support> or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) Research and Citation Resources at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html

If you need help with your writing or have questions about citing sources, consult your instructor or visit the Student Success Centre, Taylor Family Digital Library. To book an appointment, go to <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>

Instructor Intellectual Property & Copyright Legislation

Course materials created by the instructor (including lectures, course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed, or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the same course section and term may be allowed under fair dealing. Check with the instructor if you have any questions about sharing materials with classmates.

To ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes & electronic versions of textbooks), all students are required to read the *University of Calgary Policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright* at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> and the requirements of the *Copyright Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>). Students who use material protected by copy-right in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the *University of Calgary Calendar* at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants, including surveys, interviews, or observations as part of your university studies, you are responsible for obtaining research ethics approval and for following university research ethics guidelines. In some cases, your instructors may apply for course-based research ethics approval for certain assignments, and in those cases, they must

review and approve your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, please see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/arts-researchers/resources-researchers-and-instructors/ethics>

Deferrals of Course Work and Requests for Reappraisal

For university regulations and procedures related to deferral of term work, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>

For information about deferrals of final examinations, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

For information about requesting a reappraisal of course work or of a final grade, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Student Support Services and Resources

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information about student support services and resources, including Wellness and Mental Health Resources, Student Success programs and services, the Student Ombuds Office, the Student Union, and Safewalk. For resources on D2L, Zoom, Yuja, etc., see <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/resources-for-students/>. (Find the topic menu under the icon to the left of the ELEARN banner.)

Screenings (complete or excerpts):

Wandering from Munich to Berlin

Oskar Fischinger, 1927

4mins

<https://vimeo.com/user4895266/review/384300938/fe99aa80e3>

Spanky to the Pier and Back

Guy Maddin, 2007

3mins

<https://vimeo.com/user4895266/review/29067080/5390c709e0>

Crazy World

Nabwana I.G.G., 2014

82mins

Forever and Always

George Kuchar, 1980

20mins

I, an Actress

George Kuchar, 1977

8mins

Lust for Ecstasy

George Kuchar, 1963

Sadie Benning, assorted diary films:

<https://archive.org/details/BenningVideoworks/Volume+1/A+New+Year.mkv>

New Year

Living Inside

Me and Rubyfruit

Jollies

If Every Girl Had a Diary

A Place Called Lovely

Puce Moment

Kenneth Anger

6mins

My Winnipeg

Guy Maddin, 2007

80 mins

Tarnation

Jonathan Caouette, 2003

100mins

Conversations in Vermont

Robert Frank, 1969

29 mins

The Five Obstructions

Lars von Trier, 2003

103mins

Home Stories

Matthias Müller, 1990

6mins

Cuadecuc, Vampir

Pere Portobello, 1971

75mins

On YouTube: Vampir Cuadecuc (high quality)