

Department of English & Writing Studies  
Film Studies Program

**Film Studies 2259F (001)**  
**Indigenous Cinema**  
Fall 2024

**Instructor:** Theo Cuthand  
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**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in [Film Studies 1020E](#) or [Film Studies 1022](#) or [Indigenous Studies 1020E](#); or 1.0 of English 1000-1999 plus [English 2112F/G](#), [Film Studies 2212F/G](#), or [Theatre Studies 2212F/G](#), or permission of the department.

Course Materials





### **Week 2, Sept 16**

Screenings:

- *Boy Dir.* Taika Waititi 2010 88 min

Readings:

- Children, Affect, and National Feelings: Shame in Taika Waititi's *Boy* (2010) by Smith, Angela Marie. *Antipodes; Brooklyn* Vol 34. Iss.2 (2020)

### **Week 3, Sept 23**

Screenings:

- *Drunktown's Finest* Dir. Sydney Freeland 2014 93 min
- *Woman Dress* Dir. Theo Cuthand 2019 7 min

Readings:

Watchman, Renae. "Reel Restoration in *Drunktown's Finest*." *Native American and Indigenous Studies*, vol. 7 no. 2, 2020, p. 29-54. *Project MUSE*, <https://doi.org/10.1353/nai.2020.a765054>.

### **Week 4, Sept 30**

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

NO CLASS but please watch the screening to be included in discussion next class

Screenings:

- *Night Raiders* Dir. Danis Goulet 2021 101 min
- *Reclamation* Dir. Theo Cuthand 2018 13 min

Readings:

- Gorber, Jason. "Night Raiders: Danis Goulet on Crafting a Distinct Dystopian Vision." *Toronto Film Critics*, Feb 28, 2022. <https://torontofilmcritics.com/features/night-raiders-danis-goulet-on-crafting-a-distinct-dystopian-vision/>

(please watch videos in article)

### **Week 5, Oct 7**

**Film Response Assignment due Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> (500 words)**

Screenings:

- *Sweet Country* Dir. Warwick Thornton 2017 113 min

Readings:

- Ross, E. (2018). Landscape of silence: Sound design in the films of Warwick Thornton. In *Metro (Melbourne)* (Number 197, pp. 108–115). Australian Teachers of Media Inc. (ATOM).

## **READING WEEK**

### **Week 6, Oct 21**

**Thesis statement due Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>**

Screenings:

- *Beans* Dir. Tracey Deer 2020 92min

Readings:

- Channeling Childhood Trauma into Cinema: An Interview with Tracey Deer. Hogg, Trevor;

### **Week 7, Oct 28**

Screenings:

- *La Llorona* Dir. Jayro Bustamante 2019 97min

Readings:

- The true story behind the legend of “La Llorona.” CE Noticias Financieras, 2019
- Jayro Bustamante on infusing the history of Guatemala in *La Llorona* and making every shot count by Dan Mecca. The Film Stage. August 6, 2020. <https://thefilmstage.com/jayro-bustamante-on-infusing-the-history-of-guatemala-in-la-llorona-and-making-every-shot-count/>
- See Powerpoint

### **Week 8, Nov 4**

Screenings:

- *Angry Inuk* Dir. Alethea Arnaquq-Baril 2016 82 min

Readings:

- Vanstone, Gail, Brian Winston. “‘This would be scary to any other culture...but to us it’s so cute!’ The radicalism of Fourth Cinema from Tangata Whenua to *Angry Inuk*.” Sept 2019, Volume 13 Issue 3 Pages p 233 to 249. *Studies in Documentary Film*.

### **Week 9, Nov 11**

Screenings:

- *Forgotten Warriors* Dir. Loretta Todd 1997 51 min

Readings:

- Silverman, Jason. “Uncommon Visions: The Films of Loretta Todd.” *Senses of Cinema*, Oct 2002, Issue 22. <https://www.sensesofcinema.com/2002/filmmaker-profiles/todd/>
- Gauthier, Jennifer L. “Dismantling the master’s house: the feminist fourth cinema documentaries of Alanis Obomsawin and Loretta Todd.” *Post script*, 2010-06, Vol.29 (3), p27

### **Week 10, Nov 18**

Screenings:

- *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner* Dir. 2001 Zacharias Kunuk 172 min

Readings:

- Raheja, Michelle. “Reading Nanook’s Smile: Visual Sovereignty, Indigenous Revisions of Ethnography, and *Atanarjuat (The Fast Runner)*.” *American Quarterly* Vol. 59, No. 4 (Dec 2007), pp. 1159-1185 (27 pages)
- Hopkins, Candice. “Making Things Our Own: The Indigenous Aesthetic in Digital Storytelling.” *Leonardo*, vol. 39, no. 4, 2006, pp. 341–44.

### **Week 11, Nov 25**

**Research Essay due (2000 words) Nov 25<sup>th</sup> – Nov 29<sup>th</sup>**

Screenings:

- *Edge of the Knife* Dir. Gwaii Edenshaw & Helen Haig-Brown 2018 100 min

Readings:

- Sandals, Leah. “The Haida Language on Film, in Depth and at Last.” *Canadian Art*, Sess2 >>BDC /CS

**Week 12, Dec 2**

Screenings:

- *Sami Blood* Dir. Amanda Kernell 2016 110 min