



THE NATIVE LENS

CINEMA AND INDIGENEITY

Vanderbilt University | Spring 2022
CMA 3892

Thursdays 4:15 – 6:45

Lutz Koepnick (lutz.koepnick@vanderbilt.edu)

In this seminar, we engage with films by and about Native Americans, Inuit, Sami, Aboriginal Australians, Māori, and Pacific Islanders to explore different figurations of indigenous life on screen and the place of indigenous filmmaking within the larger history of popular and art cinema. Special attention will be given to the work of indigenous filmmakers and artists that actively challenge the tropes, genres, and narratives mainstream cinema has developed for the representation of indigenous people. We will also read a variety of relevant texts drawn from indigenous (media) studies to discuss past and present efforts to decolonize cinema and transform dominant circuits of cinematic distribution, exhibition, and spectatorship.

Films

Blood Quantum | Embrace of the Serpent | Incident at Oagala | Incident at Restigouche | Mesnak | Nanook of the North | One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk | Pow Wow Highway | Rabbit Proof Fence | Rhymes for Young Ghouls | Sami Blood | Smoke Signals | Songs my Brothers Taught Me | Ten Canoes | The Fast Runner | The Tracker | Thunderheart | Whale Rider

Spotlights

New Red Order | Sky Hopinka