Description: This course investigates autobiographical documentaries, experimental, and fiction films. We will study the formal and cultural aspects of these films, and read works of film theory, psychoanalysis, and philosophy that addresses issues of autobiography and subjectivity. Students will either write a seminar paper or make a film addressing these issues. Prerequisite: FTS 7,8 or 9 and FTS 121.

Reading:
René Descartes’s *Meditations on First Philosophy*
Jim Lane’s *Autobiographical Documentary in America*
Jean-Paul Sartre’s *Basic Writings*
Greg Bottoms’s *Angelhead*

Assignments:
40% Final Project: (see handout) Due May 2nd. Students will choose to either write a final seminar paper or make a final seminar film that address and expands upon the topics discussed in class.

15% 1st presentation of project: (see handout) Due Feb. 14th. Students will present initial arguments and outlines of their project to the class for discussion.

15% 2nd presentation of project: (see handout) Due Apr 4th. Students will present their project, which should be as near a rough draft/rough cut as possible, for class discussion.

30% Reading responses/exam: Every other week questions will be given out regarding the reading and screenings. These three to four page responses will be due the following week and will not be accepted past their due date. These responses will take the place of the traditional exam.

Part one: The new gaze: a theory of autobiography?

1) Jan 17: Intro
   Screening: Agnes Varda’s *Les glaneurs et la glaneuse* (The Gleaners and I, 2002, 82 min, DVD 1448)

2) Jan 24: Reading: Lane 3-32; McGowan’s Intro; Neroni’s conference paper
   Screening: Judith Helfand’s *A Healthy Baby Girl* (1996, 57 min, VID 8588)

Part Two: Theorizing the Subject

3) Jan 31: FTS job applicant talk: 3:30 at John Dewey Lounge
   Screening: Woody Allen’s *Annie Hall* (1977) (suggested screening: Woody Allen’s *Match Point*, which is currently playing at the Roxy)

4) Feb 7: Reading: René Descartes’s *Meditations on First Philosophy*
   Screening: Scorsese’s *Italianamerican* (1974, VIDR 289)
   *Reading questions due
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5) Feb 14: *1st* presentation of final project due
   Reading: Sartre Chapter One and Two; Lane 33-93
   Screening: Tom Joslin’s *Silverlake Life* (1993, 99 min, DVD 2418)

6) Feb 21: Reading: Sartre Chapter Six; Lane 94-144
   Screening: Ross McElwee’s *Sherman’s March* (1986, 157 min)

7) Feb 28: Reading: Sartre Chapter Seven and Nine
   Screening: June Cross’s *Secret Daughter* (1996)

Part Three: Writing the Subject

8) Mar 7: Town Meeting Day Recess

9) Mar 14: Reading: Bottoms’ *Angelhead*
   Screening: TBA
   Professor Bottoms to visit from 5-6

10) Mar 21: Spring Recess

Part Four: Filming the Subject

    *Hand in Responses to Sartre and Bottoms if you haven’t already

12) Apr 4: *2nd* presentation of final project due (First 7 students)
    Reading: David James’s “Stan Brackage” (29-57) and “Making Us More Radiant: Jonas
    Mekas” (100-119) (handouts)
    Screening: avant-garde shorts by Brackage, Sadie Benning

13) Apr 11: *2nd* presentation of final project due (Second 6 students)
    Reading: Michael Renov’s “Lost, Lost, Lost” and “The Subject in History” and Julia
    Lesage’s “Women’s Fragmented Consciousness in Feminist Experimental
    Autobiographical Video” (Handouts)
    Screening: films by Ted Lyman

14) Apr 18: Reading: Freud’s “Narcissism” essay (handout)
    Professor Lyman visits from 3:30-5:00
    Class discussion of reading: 5-7pm

15) Apr 25: *Response to Reading Questions Due
    Reading: Joan Copjec’s “Narcissism, Approached Obliquely” (handout)
    Screening: Neroni’s *Family Plots* (40 min)

16) May 2: Screening of Final Film Projects.
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*Final Papers Due

Final Exam: 4-7:45 (May 5 OMANex 207): Discussion of Final papers.
*Response to final projects.