Films from Cuba: A Reflection of History and Society  

Taught by Lee Zeigler at Fromm Institute for Lifelong Learning, University of San Francisco

September 16:  **Cuba Mia** (documentary) 2002  85 minutes

This depiction of an all-female chamber orchestra in Havana and the members’ preparation for a major concert shows the lives of each participant and their family relationships-- a slice of Cuban life, outstandingly photographed, including notable musical performances.

September 23:  **The Last Supper** (La Ultima Cena) (feature) 1976  110 minutes

Based on an historical incident in 18th Century Cuba, the film shows the tale of a wealthy sugar plantation owner who decides to improve his soul and instruct his slaves in the glories of Christianity. It reveals the African cultural heritage preserved by the slaves.

September 30:  **Death of a Bureaucrat** (La Muerte de un Burocrata) (feature) 1966  87 minutes

This hilarious and sharp-witted satire is the story of a young man’s attempt to fight the bureaucratic system of the new, revolutionary regime. It managed to poke fun at the government and get away with it.

October 7:  **Suite Habana** (documentary) 2003  80 minutes

A sensitive look at the lives of a dozen residents of Havana over 24 hours of their diverse occupations, activities, and aspirations, showing them as heroic strugglers of limited but livable means. Amazing photography, no dialog, no voice-overs.

October 14:  **Lucia, Part III** (feature) 1969  43 minutes (and a showing of film posters)

Lucia is a dramatic triad of stories that describe, in 1895, 1933 and 196—, the participation of three Cuban women (all named Lucia) in their quest for liberation. We will see the third story, depicting post-Revolution life in the countryside and including the literacy movement of the early 60s.

This session will include a projection of Cuban posters designed to publicize films and an explanation of the important role of posters in Cuban society.

October 21:  **A Successful Man** (Un Hombre de Exito) (feature) 1985  103 minutes

Cuba’s history before the Revolution is chronicled in this story of two brothers, one a revolutionary man of action, the other an unscrupulous politician. There are colorful musical clips of decadent night club scenes.

October 28:  **Portrait of Teresa** (Retrato de Teresa) (feature) 1979  103 minutes

The crisis of a marriage is accentuated when the husband’s sexist attitude and the wife’s desire to become more liberated clash in this portrait of Cuba in the ’70s.

November 4:  **Strawberry & Chocolate** (Fresa y Chocolate) (feature) 1993  110 minutes

A college student and a gay acquaintance who loves the culture of his country build a complex relationship in the midst of social prejudices. Nominated for an Oscar as best foreign language film.
Books on Using Film in Cross Cultural Learning

Using Film in Cross-Cultural Learning
Peggy Pusch and Lee Zeigler
NAFSA 2009 Conference
Los Angeles, CA

*Out of print but are available from the author at:* esummer@onlinemac.com  
There are a few copies available through Amazon.com


Information on Two Films Used in Session

The Lunch Date
A short video (in black and white) about a chance encounters of a white woman and several African-American males of different economic backgrounds. Elicits discussion about the interactions and the assumptions that have been made by the characters in the video and by those who are watching. Available through The Lantz Office, 200 West 57th Street, Suite 503, New York, NY 10019, Attn: Sarah Ramey. Send two checks (1) Payable to Adam Davidson for $53.00 and (2) payable to the Lantz Office in the amount of $7.75, more or less, for shipping.

A Chairy Tale
A fairy tale in the modern manner, told without words. This film is a simple ballet of a youth and a common kitchen chair. The young man tries to sit but the chair declines to be sat upon. The ensuing struggle, first for mastery and then for understanding, forms the story. 10 min., black and white. Purchase from the National Film Board of Canada. Web: www.nfb.ca (see video sources list).
Selected Sources for Films and Videos

Using Film in Cross-Cultural Learning
Peggy Pusch and Lee Zeigler
NAFSA 2009 Conference
Los Angeles, CA

AFSC Film Library
American Friends Service Committee
2161 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02140
Phone: (617) 497-5273
Fax: (617) 354-2832
Email: pshannon@afsc.org
Web: www.afsc.org

Video and Film Lending Library; collection is largely oriented to social issues around the globe.

Americans for Middle East Understanding
475 Riverside Drive
Room 245
New York, NY 10115, USA
Phone: (212) 870-2053
Fax: (212) 870-2050
Email: info@ameu.org
Web: www.ameu.org

Videos oriented to understanding the Middle East and the conflicts in the region.

Learning Communications, LLC
Big World Media
38 Discovery, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618, USA
Phone: (800) 622-3610
Fax: (949) 727-4323
Email: sales@learncom.com
Web: www.bigworldmedia.com
www.learncom.com

Supplies videos on general topics in international business and specific regions of the world. Also DVDs on more general topics such as inter-generational relations in the workplace.

California Newsreel
Order Department
P.O. Box 2284
South Burlington, VT 05407
Phone: (877) 811-7495
Fax: (802) 846-1850

Film and video for social change.
Main Office
500 Third Street, Suite 505
San Francisco, CA 94107
Phone: (415) 284-7800
Fax: (415) 284-7801
Email: contact@newsreel.org
Web: www.newsreel.org

CorVISION MEDIA, Inc.
872 S. Milwaukee Avenue, #295
Northbrook, IL 60062
Phone: (877) 364-7485
Fax: (866) 440-2614
Email: corvision@aol.com
Web: www.corvision.com

Primary distributor of ABC News productions, including “True Colors” and several series on cultural diversity.

CRM Films
2215 Faraday Ave.
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Phone: (800) 421-0833
Fax: (760) 931-5792
Email: See website for state specific contact info.
Web: http://www.crmlearning.com

A major rental and production service. Produces “Managing Diversity” and other training films for the workplace.

Documentary Educational Resources
101 Morse Street
Watertown, MA 02172
Phone: (617) 926-0491
Toll-free: (800) 569-6621
Fax: (617) 926-9519
Email: docued@der.org
Web: www.der.org

Documentary Educational Resources is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by independent film makers for the purpose of producing and distributing cross-cultural documentary film from around the world for educational use.

Films Media Group
Films for the Humanities and Sciences
200 American Metro Blvd
Hamilton, NJ 08619
Phone: (800) 257-5126
Fax: 609-671-0266
Email: custserv@films.com
Web: http://ffh.films.com

Offers an extensive collection of videos and DVDs focusing on Native American history and culture, Africa, slavery in the Americas, North Africa and Egypt, Jewish history and culture, The Middle East, Islam, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Tibet, China, Korea, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, The Philippines, West Iran, Papua New Guinea, Easter Island, Australia, Mexico and Central
America, South America, Brazil, the Caribbean, Latino issues, racial and ethnic issues and the multicultural workplace. Also produces a training program of ten videos, “The Mosaic Workplace,” which addresses the issues of cultural diversity in the workforce.

The Global Film Initiative promotes cross-cultural understanding through the medium of cinema by bringing films of other cultures to American audiences. Check Contact on the website for education and other kinds of inquiries.

Produces the widely acclaimed, 7-tape series, “Going International.” Titles include: “Bridging the Culture Gap”; “Managing the Overseas Assignment”; “Beyond Culture Shock”; “Welcome Home, Stranger”; “Working in the USA”; and “Living in the USA.” Also produces the series “Valuing Diversity,” which focuses on issues in the multicultural workplace, and “Valuing Relationships.” Also intranet and internet programs.

Carries a limited number of videos, including “Cold Water.”

A Different Place: The Intercultural Classroom, Cross-Cultural Conference Room, and other videos.
Aperian Global
394 Pacific Avenue
Suite 310
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: (415) 321-7900
Other locations including Boston, MA, Europe and Asia
www.aperianglobal.com

Podcasts and web tools such as assessment tools.

Iris Films
2600 10th Street
Suite 413
Berkeley, CA 94710
Phone: (510) 845-5414
Fax: (510) 841-3336
Email: irisweb@aol.com
Web: www.irisfilms.org

“Long Nights Journey Into Day” among other films. Links to other film distributor sites.

Media for Development International
184 Crescent Lane
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 USA
Phone: (970) 384-1190
Fax: (970) 384-1191
Email: sales@mfdi.org

Films from Africa.

Microtraining Associates
141 Walnut Street
Hanover, MA 02339
Phone: (888) 505-5576
Email: info@emicrotraining.com or through website
Web: www.emicrotraining.com

DVDs and books focused on multicultural and competency-based counselor and therapist education. Produced the three-part lecture series on cross-cultural counseling by Derald Wing Sue. Currently distributes a four-part lecture series by Derald Wing Sue on racism.

National Film Board of Canada
350, Fifth Avenue, Suite 4820
New York, NY 10118
Phone: (212) 629-8890
Fax: (212) 629-8502
Email: NEWYORK@nfb.ca
Web: www.nfb.ca

A major rental service and public agency that produces and distributes thousands of titles, many of which address issues of intercultural communication, international services, and a great deal of others, particularly Canadian point-of-view productions. Some short films are available on line at no cost.
**New Day Films**  
190 Route 17M  
P.O. Box 1084  
Harriman, NY 10926  
Phone: (888) 367-9154  
Fax: (845) 774-2945  
Email: curator@new.com  
Web: www.newday.com

A major rental service. Many titles on social issues in society such as homelessness.

**PBS Videos**  
1320 Braddock Place  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: (800) 531-4727  
Web: [www.shoppbs.org](http://www.shoppbs.org)

A major rental and purchasing service for PBS programs on video and DVD.

Public Broadcasting Wide Angle  

A list of videos especially for educators on a variety of topics that can lead to discussion and exploration of critical issues such as equality in education opportunities, human rights and the world courts, the effects of globalization on the developing world.

**Pyramid Media**  
P.O. Box 1048/WEB  
Santa Monica, CA 90406  
Phone: (310) 828-7577  
Toll-free: (800) 421-2304  
Fax: (310) 453-9083  
Email: info@pyramidmedia.com  
Web: www.pyramidmedia.com

Check the Series List.

**Rich-Heape Films, Inc.**  
5952 Royal Lane, Suite 254,  
Dallas, Texas 75230  
Toll-free: (888) 600-2922  
Phone: (214) 696-6916  
Fax: (214) 696-6306  
Web: www.richheape.com

A Native-American owned corporation that produces award-winning films and videos about Native Americans and other Native Peoples.

**Stir-Fry Seminars and Consulting**  
2311 8th Street  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
Phone: (510) 204-8840 ext. 100

Produces limited number multi-cultural videos.
Using Films in Cross-Cultural Learning

Lee Zeigler
and
Margaret (Peggy) D. Pusch
Agenda

- Why use film and videos in programs (courses and training)
- Various ways they can be used
  - Culture specific
  - Culture general
- Examples of films and their use (film segments and short videos)
- Resources
Films from Cuba: A Reflection of History and Society

- Cuba Mia
- The Last Supper
- Death of a Bureaucrat
- Suite Habana
- Lucia, Part III
- A Successful Man
- Portrait of Teresa
- Strawberry and Chocolate
People

- Iván (Hosp. Worker/Dancer)
- Francisquito (Down’s Syndrome)
- Norma (Grandmtr)
- Waldo (Grandftr)
- Heriberto (Railroad Worker/Musician)
- Amanda (Peanut Vendor)
- Julio (Shoe repair)
- Raquel (Perfume factory)
- Jorge Luis (Émigré to USA)
- Juan Carlos (Dr./Clown)
- Francisco (Builder/Father of Francisquito)
- Ernesto (Builder--worker/ballet dancer)
Suite Habana

Un Filme De Fernando Pérez
Time out for DVD
A Chairy Tale

Culture General
Relationships--essential elements
Negotiating how to function together
1957 film produced by National Film Board of Canada
Time out for video
Lessons of A Chairy Tale

Everyone who is not like us, and some who actually seem to be, are as different from us as the chair is from the man.

All the chair wanted was understanding and respect. Figuring out how to offer respect to the chair was not easy, it took experimentation, it took effort, it took time, it took a willingness to become humble and to avoid being dominant.
Research


Allport held that positive effects of inter-group contact occur only in situations marked by four key conditions: equal group status within the situation; common goals; inter-group cooperation; and the support of authorities, law, or custom.
Four conditions laid out by Gordon Allport for optimal intercultural contact are met:

- The chair and the man achieved equal status.
- There was a goal that was important to both.
- There was no competition once the man stopped trying to dominate; there was cooperation.
- The contact was sanctioned—no one objects to a chair and a man being together. It is, in fact, encouraged.
The Lunch Date

• Deliberately a black and white film though color was available.
• Timeless; made to like it is an older film
• Available on You Tube
• [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epuTZigxUY8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epuTZigxUY8)
Time out for video
What issues for discussion emerge from this film?

Small groups--5 minutes
Lessons

- Made to address perception and our perceptions of each other, often based on flimsy information.
- Remember **respect** is the greatest gift you can give. The nice thing is that it gives back, respect begets respect, and can do a lot to ease conflict.
Look for Resources

Public Broadcasting Wide Angle
http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/category/for-educators/
A list of videos especially for educators on a variety of topics that can lead to discussion and exploration of critical issues such as equality in education opportunities, human rights and the world courts, the effects of globalization on the developing world.

Films Media Group: Films for the Humanities & Sciences
http://ffh.films.com/
As a provider of media for higher education, Films for the Humanities & Sciences creates and distributes world-class academic content for discerning educators.

Netflix
http://www.netflix.com/?mqso=80015687
Well known and widely used source of films and TV episodes.

You Tube
www.YouTube.com
More Resources

List of film sources
Limited list of films
Cuban Course information
Available on line.

http://filmcrosscultural.blogspot.com/