

**North-Eastern Federal University Institute of Foreign Philology and
Regional Studies Department of English Philology**

VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

*Spring 2017: January – May
Offered online through Moodle NEFU
ECTS: 3 credits*

by Liubov Bolshakova, Master in Arctic Studies, Senior Teacher



COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course offers in-depth content understanding of Visual Anthropology regarding Indigenous northern cultures. The basis of the course is the study of visual culture in the theoretical paradigm of research, including the scope of consideration of visual cultural phenomena: the study of different kinds of visual information of ethnographic and cultural character. Particular attention is paid to the presentation and analysis of the visual picture of ethnic and cultural diversity of the Arctic: material and spiritual culture of Indigenous peoples of Canada, North America, Fennoscandia and Russia. The course involves the active use of ethnographic and feature films - both classic and modern, reflecting the different approaches to visual anthropology.

Overarching questions for Visual Anthropology:

1. *What is Visual Anthropology?*
2. *Documenting the North: The Case of the Flaherty*
3. *The film "Nanook of the North" as means of studying of cultural heritage of the Inuit peoples of Canada*
4. *"Atanarjuat. The Fast Runner": capturing the Inuit culture from inside*
5. *The Ancient Legend behind the Scene*
6. *Atanarjuat's spiritual path and external struggle with natural and supernatural enemies*
7. *Authentic view of Inuit culture through film*
8. *Traditional culture of Sami peoples in the films*
9. *Issues of land rights and land claims in the films "Ofelas" and "Kautokeino Rebellion"*
10. *Cultural symbols in the films "Ofelas" and "Kautokeino Rebellion"*
11. *Indigenous and Non-Indigenous phenomena in the films about Russian northern peoples*
12. *Opposition Nature vs Civilization in the film «Dersu Uzala»*
13. *Contrasts of the West way of perception of Nature and Indigenous peoples' worldview*

COURSE GOALS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES:

- Recognize the role of films in formation, transformation and maintaining the students' knowledge about the Indigenous cultures of the Arctic
- Develop a holistic view on the history of formation and development of visual anthropology as a contemporary and relevant scientific discipline;
- Study the basic theories and methods of research in Visual Anthropology;
- Train photography and film analysis skills.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

The course is offered entirely online through the North-Eastern Federal University's Moodle Virtual Learning Tool available at <http://yagu.s-vfu.ru>. The student needs to register with the help of the teacher Liubov Bolshakova at the NEFU.

The course consists of the following 10 lectures:

1. Introduction to Visual Anthropology.
2. Visual Anthropology: definition, key concepts and research methods. Visual cultural sources.
3. The peoples of the Northern Circumpolar World: anthropological and cultural diversity of the North.
4. Photography as a source of anthropological knowledge. Methods of analysis of the photographic image.
5. Film phenomenon in Visual Anthropology. Methods of analysis and interpretation of films.
6. Films as a means of studying and preservation of the cultural heritage of northern peoples
7. Inuit peoples in films
8. The Sami peoples in films
9. The indigenous peoples of Russia in films
10. Review and conclusion of the course

STUDENTS EVALUATION (TOTAL 100 POINTS) ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- weekly participation (readings, lectures, watching and analysis of photographs and films) – 70 points
- weekly discussion – 30 points

COURSE MATERIALS:

All required reading is available hyperlinked in the syllabus and online