

Week 7 Notes – 31 Oct 2017

HW for next week, 8 Nov:

Watching/Reading:

Please watch the essay-film *Sans Soleil* by the French filmmaker Chris Marker (I've given you the English subtitles, but I don't mind if you want to find the Czech ones instead and watch it with those).

(The video file is very big—I apologize for the long download time...)

I'm sure you will see the similarities and references to *La jeteé*, Marker's earlier film, which we watched in class. But of course, you will also see the differences. *Sans Soleil* is much more essay-like, in that it is structured around ideas rather than a narrative. Like Rebecca Solnit's essay, the film may seem disorganized/rambling/incoherent at first, but notice how Marker holds it all together with repeated images, the voice-over, and the "circling back" structure.

I've uploaded several other shorter video essays; you don't need to watch all of them, but I'd like you to watch at least one or two of them, so you can get a feeling for different ways of making such essays.

By the way, I'm still learning about and researching this genre myself. I just discovered this list of other essay films, only one of which I have already seen: <http://www.tasteofcinema.com/2015/17-essential-movies-for-an-introduction-to-essay-films/2/>

Writing:

Please BRING TO CLASS a hard copy of a rough draft of your essay project. I want to see at least a page (or if you are doing an audiovisual project, a few minutes of recording). The draft should give me a decent idea of the kind of essay you want to write. This doesn't have to be anywhere near perfect; it should be a "shitty first draft." Enjoy it!

