

Spanish 461-Spring 2017

# Topics in Hispanic Culture

## The Infrapolitical Image:

### An Introduction to the Cinema of Raúl Ruiz

Professor Alberto Moreiras  
MW 4:10-5:25



Raúl Ruiz is probably the most important Latin American film-maker of his generation, arguably of all time, and also an extremely significant theoretician of the cinematic image. His untimely death a few years ago kept him from coming to Texas A&M, where a particular event on his late work was being prepared. I would like to invite students to explore with me his filmography and theory of the image, in the context of a radically experimental course that takes several risks for the sake of an ambitious goal. It will require strong commitment from the students.

My idea is to read two books published by Ruiz, *Poetics of Cinema* and *Poetics of Cinema 2*. The first book was a result of a series of lectures I organized for him about twenty years ago at Duke University—so this is also a sort of anniversary celebration. Then, we will study some films by two French film directors that are among Raúl's recognized masters, Jean-Pierre Melville and Robert Bresson. Finally, we will read another couple of books on image theory (Emmanuele Coccia, Georges Didi-Huberman). And then we will study some films by Raúl himself.

But the challenge—and this is for me a conscious imitation of what he would have done himself—is for the students to bring all of that to bear on their own creative work. The course evaluation will consist not only of class participation but of the final presentation of a film project based on a particular set of texts—the Book of Tobit, Juan Benet's novella *El Ángel del Señor abandona a Tobías*, and some etchings on that story done by Rembrandt.