



# SEMINAR IN LITERATURE, CULTURE AND THOUGHT

## EXPERIMENTS IN ART AND THOUGHT

PROFESSOR ERIN GRAFF ZIVIN  
FALL 2022: THURSDAYS 11-1:50



(TeRRReMoTo, dir. Azucena Losana)

This seminar engages with experimental art and conceptual work - what I am calling “thought” - and will itself be a kind of experiment. This course will be divided into two parts, although they will overlap and contaminate one another. In the first part of the semester, we will focus on experimental film (M. Alemann, S. Brakhage, C. Caldini, M. Deren, N. Hirsch, J. Honik, A. Losana, J. Mekas, M. Snow, M. Szlam, A. Vaz and others), with some attention paid to experimental music (J. Cage, S. Reich, C. Taylor), dance (M.

Cunningham), painting (Warhol and Basquiat), happenings and participatory art (A. Kaprow, M. Minujin, N. Hirsch, L. Clark, International Errorista), as well as on the playful experiments carried out *between* genres and media. During the second part of the semester, we will read works by thinkers who seek to disrupt, transgress or subvert the boundaries of conventional academic genres, disciplines and institutions (L. Berlant, J. Derrida, A. Dufourmantelle, M. Gallope, M. Kronfeld, F. Moten and S. Harney, M. Nelson, C. Sharpe, K. Stewart and others). Throughout, we will ask how we might allow our *own* intellectual labor to be inspired and transformed by our engagement with works of experimental art and thought. Our collective and individual experiments will be motivated by a series of *What If..?* questions: What if we were to consider experimental art as “thought” on par with, or far beyond, what we produce in the university? What if we were to be attuned to sound, rhythm, image or touch as we write within academic genres (the conference paper, the article, the dissertation, the book)? What if we were to imagine intellectual work as a wholly creative endeavor, even when we trace an argument anchored in logic and a certain temporality? Course readings and viewings will be accompanied by virtual and in-person visits by experimental artists and theorists (S. Marsh, T. Rautenstrauch, S. Rolnik and others).