

The Films of John Cassavetes and Gena Rowlands: Innovation in Filmmaking and Performance

This course explores the groundbreaking collaborations between John Cassavetes and Gena Rowlands, two of the most influential figures in independent cinema. Cassavetes revolutionized American filmmaking with his raw, character-driven storytelling, while Rowlands' deeply expressive performances are among the most mesmerizing in film history.

We will examine Cassavetes' unconventional filmmaking methods, including handheld cinematography, long takes, overlapping dialogue, and spontaneous performances. Rowlands' emotionally intense acting style will be analyzed through her landmark roles in *A Woman Under the Influence* (1974), *Opening Night* (1977), and *Gloria* (1980).

We'll also explore the collaborative nature of Cassavetes' productions, his rejection of Hollywood conventions, and his lasting impact on contemporary filmmaking. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how Cassavetes and Rowlands redefined cinematic storytelling with emotional depth and authenticity.



[Click here to view promo video.](#)

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Heather Brown, PhD



Heather Brown holds a PhD in English with a concentration in rhetoric and composition from the University of Maryland, an M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina–Wilmington. She has taught courses in academic writing, English literature, language and linguistics, women's literature, feminist theory, and rhetorical criticism. Brown works as a learning designer, specializing in graduate and professional studies programs, including Northwestern University. She is also an adjunct associate professor of academic writing at the University of Maryland Global Campus.

FRIDAYS, OCTOBER 10 THROUGH NOVEMBER 14

7am AK | 8am PT | 9am MT | 10am CT | 11am ET

Each live session is 90 minutes

- Friday, October 10
- Friday, October 17
- Friday, October 24
- Friday, October 31
- Friday, November 7
- Friday, November 14

To register, please contact your local Osher Institute.