

**45.08200 US History in Film**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Texts:**

Film History: An Introduction, Bordwell/ Thompson.

Various articles available online

**Course Goals:**

- To develop an understanding and greater appreciation of the art and history of film
- To position contemporary American and foreign film in its broader historical and cultural contexts
- To study how the medium has been used to reflect or affect U.S. history
- To acquire analysis skills to better understand cinema and the filmmakers' intentions

**Grading Breakdown:**

Tests: 30%, Essays: 20%, Quizzes: 20%, Final: 15% Presentations 15%

Good writing skills are a must in this course. If you are not confident about your ability to craft a clearly written, articulate, well-organized essay, I will be happy to read drafts if they are submitted to me well ahead of the due date.

**Week 1 : INTRODUCTION – WHAT DO FILM HISTORIANS DO?**

Reading: Film History, Ch.1, 2

Screening: Various early films (Muybridge, Lumière, Méliès, Porter)

**Week 2 : EARLY CINEMA AND GRIFFITH**

Screening: Various films by D. W. Griffith, W in class

Reading: Film History, Ch. 3

**Week 3 : WEIMAR CINEMA**

Screening: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (Wiene, 1919)

Reading: Film History, Ch.4 + 5

**Week 4 : HOLLYWOOD SILENT FILM (Guest Lecture)**

Screening: Easy Street (1917) + The General (Keaton, 1926)

Reading: Film History, Ch.7, 8

**Week 5 : PRE-CODE HOLLYWOOD**

Screening: Scarface (Hawks, 1932)

Reading: Film History, Ch.10

**Week 6 : FRENCH POETIC REALISM**

Screening: Rules of the Games (Renoir, 1939)

Reading: Film History, Ch.13

**Week 7 : GENRE CINEMA 1: THE HOLLYWOOD STUDIO SYSTEM**

Screening: Sullivan's Travels (Sturges, 1941)  
Reading: Janet Staiger, "The Labor Force,"

**Week 8 : NAZI CINEMA**

Screening: Clip: Triumph of the Will (Riefenstahl 1935), Jud Süß (Harlan  
Reading: Film History, Ch.12

**Week 9 : HOLLYWOOD AT WAR**

Screening: Casablanca (Curtiz, 1942)  
Reading: Umberto Eco, "Casablanca: Cult Movies and Intertextual Collage

**Week 10 : Film Noir**

Screening: Out of the Past (Tourneur, 1947) or The Maltese Falcon (Huston 1941)  
Reading: Film History, Chapter 10

**Week 11: Italian Neo-Realism**

Screening: Open City (Rossellini, 1945) "if time permits" Bicycle Thieves (Sica 1948)  
Reading: Film History, Chapter 16

**Week 12 : The Eisenhower Era: Hollywood in the 50s**

Screening: Roman Holiday (Wyler, 1953) or Some Like it Hot (Wilder, 1959)  
Reading: Film History, Chapter 15

**Week 13 : The New Hollywood and the Blockbuster I**

Screening: Jaws (Spielberg, 1975)  
Reading: Film History, Chapter 22  
"The Exorcist and Jaws," Bowles, Stephen E., Literature/Film Quarterly 4, (1976)

**Week 14 : The New Hollywood and the Blockbuster II**

Screening: Raging Bull (Scorcese, 1980)  
Reading: Film History, Chapter 22  
"The Last Temptation in Mean Streets and Raging Bull" By: Librach, Ronald S

**Week 15: British Cinema**

Screening: Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrells (Ritchie, 2008)  
Reading: Film History, Chapter 25

**Week 16 : Beyond the West,**

Screening: Once Upon a Time in China (Hark, 1991)  
Reading: Chapter 26, 27

**Week 17: Documentary Film**

Screening: The People Vs. George Lucas (Phillipe, 2010)  
Reading: Chapter 28