AMERICAN CINEMA

BROADCAST TITLE: American Cinema

COURSE NUMBER: MCOM 54A VA

REFERENCE NUMBER: 304925

CREDIT HOURS: 3 Undergraduate Credit Hours

DESCRIPTION: American Cinema, an introductory course in film studies, focuses on the Hollywood film as an art form, an economic force, and as a system of symbolic representation and communication. The course explores how Hollywood films work technically, artistically, and culturally to project, reinforce and challenge America's self-image.

PREREQUISITE: None

TUITION AND FEES: Undergraduate: $298.50
                  Graduate: $314.25

ORIENTATIONS: GSU  Friday, May 14, 1999, 6:30 p.m. or
                      Saturday, May 15, 1999, 10 a.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Ann Juttelstad

TELEPHONE: (708) 283-2704

DISCUSSION/EXAM: There will be one scheduled exam session and one scheduled class meeting at Governors State University.

EXAM SCHEDULE: Saturday, June 19, 1999 at 10:00 a.m.

                  Final Project Due: Thursday, August 19, 1999


VIDEOTAPES: 10 one-hour videotapes & 3-30-minutes videotapes
AMERICAN CINEMA

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DESCRIPTION: American Cinema, an introductory course in film studies, focuses on the Hollywood film as an art form, an economic force, and as a system of symbolic representation and communication. The course explores how Hollywood films work technically, artistically, and culturally to project, reinforce, and challenge America's self image.

PREREQUISITE: NONE

ORIENTATIONS: GSU

INSTRUCTOR: ANN JUTTELSTAD
PHONE: 708-283-2704
FAX: 708-748-1526
E-MAIL: JUTTELSTAD@AOL.COM

EXAM SCHEDULE: MID-TERM TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE BY END OF WEEK 7
FINAL: A PAPER, DUE BY END OF WEEK 14

TEXTS:
BELTON, JOHN
AMERICAN CINEMA/AMERICAN CULTURE
NEW YORK MCGRAW-HILL INC. 1994

SIKOV, ED
AMERICAN CINEMA: STUDY GUIDE
NEW YORK MCGRAW-HILL INC. 1994

VIDEOTAPES:
10 ONE-HOUR VIDEOTAPES, PLUS ADDITIONAL MOVIES AS NEEDED.
AVAILABLE IN VIDEO STORES, LIBRARIES AND THE GSU BOOKSTORE.
RATIONALITY: American Cinema offers the student who is most used to viewing films passively to see them as a critical observer. This will increase your awareness of how films work and how they function as cultural artifacts. The course traces development of both narrative tradition and character within selected film genres.

COMPETENCIES: Upon completing the course, you should be able to:
- Explain the major development periods of the American film from the silent era to present.
- Use basic technical and critical vocabularies of motion pictures.
- Explain the relationship between cinema technology and cinema art.
- Explain the basic economic structure of the film industry.
- Actively watch films.
- Critically evaluate films and film segments.

INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: You will be expected to perform the following tasks on a weekly basis:
- READING - You are required to read the text of both Belton's American Cinema/American Culture and Sikov's Study Guide For American Cinema
- VIEWING - You are required to screen ten (10) one-hour programs, three half-hour supplementary programs and films of your choice related to the course assignments. A list of appropriate films follows each segment of the Study Guide and the Belton text. You can find these films in video stores, libraries, and the GSU libraries. The videos are available in the GSU bookstore, in the GSU library, and in some instances they are available via cable TV. Check your local listings.
- EVALUATION - Most of this class is spent viewing, critiquing, and evaluating tapes and films. Grades will be based on your understanding of the materials and your assignments at the end of the chapters.
- ASSIGNMENTS - The assignment schedule (see following pages) includes the viewing schedule, as well as written assignments. Short essays are 1 page, 2 max.

ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON THE DATE SPECIFIED. DO NOT TURN IN ASSIGNMENTS LATE. THERE IS NO GRACE PERIOD. ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED IN FULL SENTENCES, AT LEAST TWO PARAGRAPHS, BUT NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES. ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED. USE SPELL CHECK AND GRAMMAR CHECK FUNCTIONS ON THE COMPUTER. IF YOU NEED HELP, GO TO THE COMPUTER CENTER. IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ANY OF THIS, CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR.

GRADUATE CREDIT: Those students who are taking the course for graduate credit are required to complete 3 additional assignments from any of Units 1-10, Section IV, Study Guide. Alternately, 3 one-page essays on any of those topics from Units 1-10 may be submitted.
EXAMINATIONS: MID-TERM: There will be a mid-term exam Friday of week 7 at Governor’s State University. (See the GSU/DXL website for due date.) Distance learning students should contact the instructor for instructions.

FINAL: The final consists of a paper, 5-6 pages long, on any aspect of the film industry. You may examine the works of a single actor or director, a film genre, a group of films, Hollywood’s influence on American life, or anything else you like. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Call, write or e-mail your paper topic, and I will give you a timely answer.

THE FINAL PAPER MUST BE WELL RESEARCHED AND COMPLETE. USE REFERENCES TO BACK UP ANY OPINIONS, IF POSSIBLE, AND INCLUDE A BIBLIOGRAPHY.

TOPIC OUTLINE:
Film Language
The Classic Hollywood Style
Thinking and Writing About Film
The Studio System
The Star System
Genre and Romantic Comedy
The War Film
Film Noir
The Western
Hollywood and the Cold War
Hollywood in the Age of Television
The Film School Generation and Bringing it Back Home

REMEMBER: This class is about entertainment. Enjoy it, learn from it, and have fun.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ASSIGNMENTS

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED:
Please mail assignments to:
Ann Juttelstad
Division of Extended Learning
University Park, IL 60466
Attn: Rebecca Scharnhorst

Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE LABELED:
Turn in each assignment with a cover sheet. Information on the cover sheet must follow the format:

American Cinema 54A, (year)
Your Name
Unit Number and Title
Unit Assignment as it appears on the assignment sheet. All assignments are due on or before the date specified on the assignment sheet.
ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.

LENGTH OF ASSIGNMENTS:
Unless otherwise stated in the Study Guide, all assignments should be no less than two paragraphs, and no more than two single-paced, typewritten pages.

GRADES:
Course grades will be calculated using the following points and percentages:

Undergraduates:
10 points per assignment, i.e. 20 points per unit @ 10 units= 200
Two examinations @ 25 points = 50
Total: 250

A = 225-250
B = 200-224
C = 175-199
D = 150-174
F = below 150

Graduates:
10 points per assignment, i.e. 20 points per unit @ 10 units= 200
Two examinations @ 25 points = 50
Three additional assignments @ 25 points = 75
Total 325

A = 292-325
B = 260-291
C = 227-259
D = 195-226
F = below 195
NOTE: No Incomplete grades will be given in this class without documentation of a hospitalization or death in the students’ family. The instructor retains the sole authority to make the decision to grant an Incomplete.

WINTER 2001 SCHEDULE
MCOM 54A AMERICAN CINEMA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES</th>
<th>Name of Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment #1</td>
<td>Read Belton pg. 1-60 Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 3 Also the Study Guide (SG), pages 1-13 Viewing: Select your choice of movies from the filmographies at the end of each chapter or from the Study Guide Watch at least one. Write a short paper about the style and cinematic values of the film, analyzing the film narrative (circular, flight and pursuit, etc), the lighting, camera angle, structure and style of the film and comment on how it serves the plot and action.</td>
<td>End of week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #2</td>
<td>Belton pg. 61-82 The Studio System Read SG pg. 19-23 Viewing: Select your choice of movies from the filmographies at the end of each chapter or from the Study Guide Watch at least one. Write a short paper about how the studio system helped or hurt the careers of the stars.</td>
<td>End of week 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment #3</td>
<td>Belton pg. 83-113 The Star System Read SG 31-43 Viewing: Select your choice of movies from the filmographies at the end of each chapter or from the Study Guide Watch at least one. Write a short paper about the stars. Did the stars in the film you viewed reflect the kinds of characters they played in their off-camera life?</td>
<td>End of week 4</td>
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<td>Assignment #4</td>
<td>Belton pg. 115-163 Genre and The Comedy Read SG 53-62</td>
<td>End of week 5</td>
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<td>Assignment #5</td>
<td>Belton pg. 164-183</td>
<td>End of week 6</td>
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<td>The War Film</td>
<td>SG pg. 36-73</td>
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<td>Viewing: Select a film to view from the list at the end of the chapters. Answer question #3, page 72 of the Study Guide.</td>
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| Midterm | | End of week 7 |
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<tr>
<th>Assignment #6</th>
<th>Belton pg. 184-205</th>
<th>End of week 7</th>
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<tr>
<td>Film Noir</td>
<td>SG pg. 75-85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viewing: Select a film from the filmographies at the end of the chapters. Write a short paper about the movie. How does it differ from movies that you have previously screened? Why did Film Noir have such an impact in the 1940's and 1950's?</td>
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<th>Assignment #7</th>
<th>Belton pg. 206-230</th>
<th>End of week 8</th>
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<td>The Western</td>
<td>SG pg. 43-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viewing: Select a film from the filmographies at the end of the readings. Do the exercise on page 50, Section V1, 1.</td>
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<th>Assignment #8</th>
<th>Belton pg. 231-255</th>
<th>End of week 9</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hollywood and the Cold War</td>
<td>SG pg. 87-96</td>
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<td>Viewing: Select a film from the filmography at the end of the chapter. Write a short paper about how the film you watched fits into the Cold War genre.</td>
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<th>Assignment #9</th>
<th>Belton pg. 257-297</th>
<th>End of week 10</th>
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<td>Hollywood in the Age of Television, The Counterculture Strikes Back</td>
<td>SG pg. 87-96</td>
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<td>Viewing: Watch two films from the filmographies at the end of the chapters.</td>
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| Assignment #10 | Belton pg. 298-345  
The Film School Generation, Bringing It Back Home  
SG pg. 97-118  
Viewing: Select a film of your choice. Write a short paper about how the principles learned in this course were used in the film. | End of week 11 |
| ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES | Name of Assignment | Due Date |
| Final Paper | A 5-6 page paper on any aspect of the film industry: the works of a single director, a genre, an actor, a studio, or a film | End of week 14 |

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Ann Juttelstad

MCOM 54A  
AMERICAN CINEMA