

NEW COURSE FOR FALL 2009

American Cinema

American Studies 192/Art History 157—with Dr. Laura Cook Kenna



“Hollywood.” Rarely do we use the word simply to mean a part of L.A. “Hollywood” also refers to an enormous industry and its products; a style of storytelling; and, of course, film stars—their performances, scandals, and loyal fans.

In American Cinema, we’ll learn Hollywood’s history from the invention of moving image technology to the invention of the blockbuster business strategy. We will read about film style and genres as well as histories of audiences, censorship, and industry practices. We’ll screen movies that illustrate the evolution of American film including action adventure from the silent era, exploitation horror films, and conventional “classics” like *Casablanca*.

In the end, we’ll have a sense of film history that spans over one hundred years and encompasses a wide range of movie trends that kept have producers, regulators, and fans on the edge of their seats. Students will walk away with a sense of how films have not merely reflected but also helped to shape our larger American culture.

This course will meet for **lecture T 3:45-5:00**, a **film screening R 7:10-9:40**, and a **discussion** section.

This course will fulfill the following requirements:

American Studies majors: Cultural Analysis concentration (AMST 192)

Art History majors: Modern Art requirement (AH 157)