Outline of Instruction

Division: Humanities/Social Sciences
Area: Humanities

Course Number: HUMAN 255
Course Name: Film in American Society

Prerequisites: ENGL 151
Corequisite: NONE
Hours Required: Class: 45  Lab: 0  Credits: 3

Course Description/Purpose

This course is a chronological survey of the development of American cinema. Changes in the productive forces and social relation will be identified and discussed in terms of their influence on the kinds and content of movies produced in the United States. At the same time, this course will explore the various ways in which filmmakers adapted to and/or criticized these same influences.

Major Units

- 1930s through early 1940s: The Collapse of Capitalism—the Hollywood version and critiques of this version
- 1940s to early 1950s: WWII, Post-war Anxiety and Unanswered Questions.
- Mid 1950s through early 1960s: American Consumerism, Repression, and Cold War Issues

Educational/Course Outcomes

Instructors will assess students learning by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes an tests, journals, essays, oral presentations, and class discussions.

Cognitive  Each student will be expected to Understand/Explain...

- the productive forces and social relations that have been responsible for the kinds and contents of American movies
- the various sways in which filmmakers adapted to and/or criticized the productive forces and social relations
- the aesthetic components of filmmaking that expressed these adaptations and/or criticisms

Performance  Each student will be expected to Demonstrate his or her ability to . . .

- write a research paper on some aspect of filmmaking viewed and discussed in class
- lead a class discussion on some aspect of filmmaking viewed and discussed in class

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