



蘇州大學
Soochow University

ART 301 Classical Hollywood Film

Fall 2023

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course examines the development of classical Hollywood cinema as a dominant and influential mode of filmmaking. We will explore the historical, technological, and artistic aspects of this era, with a focus on key films, directors, and genres that shaped the industry and continue to influence contemporary filmmaking from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the cultural and historical context of classical Hollywood cinema;
2. Cultivate critical vocabulary and theoretical skills through an immersive exploration of Classical Hollywood Cinema within the context of film theory, genre studies, aesthetics, race, gender, and the broader tapestry of film history;
3. Develop a deep understanding of the classical Hollywood style and its evolution;
4. Enhance critical thinking and writing skills through film analysis.

PREREQUISITES

None

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
4 Film Reflections	40 Points



Research Paper	20 Points
Midterm Exam	15 Points
Final Exam	25 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Bordwell, David; Janet Staiger, Kristin Thompson. *The Classical Hollywood Cinema: Film Style and Mode of Production to 1960*. London: Routledge, 1985.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

There will be specific readings based on class activity.

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Early American cinema: before classical Hollywood Topic 2: Story causality and motivation Topic 3: Classical narration Topic 4: Time and space in the classical film Assessments: Screening: <i>Signin' in the Rain</i> (Donen and Kelly 1952) Film Reflection #1
Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Classical Hollywood style Topic 6: Genre and Hollywood studios Topic 7: Classical Hollywood stardom Topic 8: Hollywood and politics Assessments: Screening: <i>Casablanca</i> (Michael Curtiz, 1942) Film Reflection #2



Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Hollywood and ideology I: race and ethnicity Topic 10: Hollywood and ideology II: antebellum south Topic 11: Methods: spectatorship theory and film genre Topic 12: The stability of the western: genericity and myths</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm Exam</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: The Hollywood mode of production Topic 14: Standardization and differentiation Topic 15: The central producer system Topic 16: The division and order of production</p> <p>Assessments: Screening: <i>In the Heat of the Night</i> (Jewison 1967) Film Reflection #3</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: From primitive to classical Topic 18: Classical narrative space and the spectator's attention Topic 19: Technology, style and mode of production Topic 20: Major technological changes of the 1920s</p> <p>Assessments: Screening: <i>Jailhouse Rock</i> (Richard Thorpe, 1957) Film Reflection #4</p>
Module 6	<p>Topics: Topic 21: The introduction of sound Topic 22: Deep-focus cinematography Topic 23: Since 1960: the persistence of a mode of film practice Topic 24: Alternative modes of film practice</p> <p>Assessments: Research paper Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning



and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.