



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# **FIL 401 Hollywood The Art of Cinematic Storytelling**

**Winter 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course is an in-depth exploration of the history, culture, and impact of the American film industry, with a particular focus on Hollywood. This course takes you on a journey through the evolution of the film industry, from its humble beginnings to its current global influence. It examines how Hollywood has shaped and reflected American society and culture, and how it has created and perpetuated dreams and myths that continue to captivate audiences worldwide.

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

1. Gain a comprehensive understanding of the development of Hollywood and its impact on the global film industry;
2. Explore the technical and artistic aspects of filmmaking, including cinematography, editing, sound design, and visual effects;
3. Analyze how Hollywood movies have reflected and influenced American culture, politics, and society;
4. Discuss current challenges and debates within the film industry, such as diversity, representation, and the impact of digital media;
5. Examine the international reach of Hollywood and its influence on filmmaking in other countries.

## **PREREQUISITES**

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SOS 255 Media and Popular Culture

## **GRADING**

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

ITEM	POINTS
2 Quizzes	20 Points
2 Writing Essays	20 Points
Midterm Exam	30 Points
Final Presentation and Exam	30 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:

1. Peter Decherney, *Hollywood: A Very Short Introduction*, 1st Edition, Oxford University Press, 2015.
2. Veronica Pravadelli, *Classic Hollywood*, 1st Edition, 2015.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b></p> <p>Topic 1: Introduction: Classical Hollywood Cinema and Film Studies</p> <p>Topic 2: The Early Thirties: Modernity, New Women, and the Aesthetic of Attraction</p> <p>Topic 3: Normative Desires and Visual Sobriety</p> <p>Topic 4: The Male Subject of Noir and the Modern Gaze</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b></p> <p>Quiz#1</p>



Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: (Dis)Adventures of Female Desire in the 1940s Woman's Film Topic 6: Excess, Spectacle, Sensation: Family Melodrama in the 1950s Topic 7: Five theses on the history of Hollywood Topic 8: Nothing natural <b>Assessments:</b> Quiz#2 Writing Essay#1
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Risky business Topic 10: "Hollyworld" Topic 11: Transmedia Topic 12: The more things change <b>Assessments:</b> Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Hollywood at war Topic 14: Hollywood gets political Topic 15: The blacklist and the Cold War Topic 16: HUAC in Hollywood <b>Assessments:</b> Writing Essay#2
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Cold War films Topic 18: The New Hollywood Topic 19: Hollywood auteurs Topic 20: Big media <b>Assessments:</b> Final Presentation Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

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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.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**



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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.