

## Course Abstract

*If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.*

*To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.*

**Course ID and Name:** ENG 262 Cinema History

**Department:** English

Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Michael Nester

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**Prerequisites:** ENG 122 of permission of Department Chairperson    **Co-requisites:**

**Course Description:**

This course surveys the chronological development of motion pictures since their inception to the present, with an emphasis on key artistic principles and technical advancements. The course focuses on film as a changing, dynamic art form, a commercial industry, a world-wide cultural phenomenon, and a reflection of and influence on people's experiences, values and lives and changing standards of artistic taste. Students view numerous examples of classic films from various historical decades and genres as well as complete reading, writing and research assignments.

**General Education Status:** GE HUM

**Credits:** 3            **Lecture Hours:** 3            **Lab Hours:** 0

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate and discuss major historical trends in cinema development from the pre-silent era to the present in America and throughout Europe and Asia.
2. Analyze and appraise representative examples of films from each decade.
3. Outline the stages of development in the fields of cinematography and sound recording and discuss their impact on the creative process in filmmaking.
4. Discuss the role of genre in cinema history and correlate the connections between popular genres and social conditions.
5. Assess examples of classic films from various historical periods, orally and in writing, analyzing and critiquing them from various perspectives: aesthetic, technological, historical, social, cultural and economic.

**Course Content Areas:**

1. Pre 1920's Film History: Early cinematic origins, the birth of moving pictures, one-reelers, two-reelers and up, the rise of American film.
2. The 1920's: Pre-talkies and the Silent Era, the first movie stars, major European movements, American slapstick comedy, crime genres, German Golden Age.
3. The 1930's: Talkies, the growth of Studios, the Golden Age of Hollywood, color, screwball comedies, Hayes Code.
4. The 1940's: The War and Post War Era, Hollywood in transition, French Realism, Film Noir, documentaries and propaganda films.
5. The 1950's: The Cold War and post Classical era, epic films, European postwar films, threat of TV, Italian Neo-realism, Japanese classical, science fiction films, method acting, cinemascope, Vistavision.
6. The 1960's: The end of the Studio System, underground cinema, French New Wave, European Avant Garde, the Auteur, British free cinema and comedies.
7. The 1970's: Last Golden Age of American movies, blockbuster films, Vietnam/Watergate era, political/social realism, European intellectual cinema, Hollywood renaissance.
8. The 1980's: The film boom, special effects, video age, teen-oriented angst films, slasher films, New German cinema, independents, underground films.
9. The 1990's: Computer generated films, digital technology, remakes, independents, socially conscious international cinema.
10. The 2000's: Age of Special Effects, computer generated animation, a global industry.