

**Code: FLMD-213E.12**

---

**Course title:** Hollywood in crisis: testing directions in American cinema between 1950-1970

---

**Course convenors:** Tibor Hirsch

---

**Class time and place:** Tuesday 14:15-15:45 -137

---

**Course type:** Lecture

---

**Course content:** We use two main approaches to explore and understand historical developments of the Hollywood Cinema. The first approach focuses on the social-historical aspect: looking more closely at the changing social and political expectations of the Cold War context and changing faces of the financial and artistic crisis of the film industry – in the 50s, and 60s. All of these influencing factors trigger the desperate experiments of artists and industrial decision makers when searching new technical formats, new genres, new sets of values to convey. It concludes in some undefinable sub-period we will focus on: labelled as e.g. “monster age” or as the age of “sword and sandal epics”, showing endeavours to save classical Hollywood by revising old traditions, or just exploring new solutions to elaborate the so called “Hollywood Renaissance”. The other approach puts the emphasis on the most remarkable filmmakers and their special influence: e.g. Wyler, Wilder, Kazan, Kramer, Hitchcock, Kubrick, Polanski, Altman, Coppola, Spielberg, etc.

---

**Requirements:** Students are required to watch the films assigned for each class. Grades will be given on the basis of the term and test.

**Some Films will be referred frequently (Compulsory ones in block letters):**

**Wyler, William: The Best Years of Our Lives**

William Wyler: Ben Hur (1959)

Cecil B. DeMille: The Ten Commandments (1956)

**Zinnemann, Fred: High Noon (1952)**

Zinnemann, Fred: From Here to Eternity (1953)

**Kazan, Elia: East of Eden**

**Kazan, Elia: On the Waterfront (1954)**

**Kramer, Stanley: Inherit the Wind (1960)**

**Sidney Lumet: 12 angry men (1957)**

Jack Arnold: It Came from Outer Space (1953)

Don Siegel: Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956)

Mankiewicz, Joseph L.: Cleopatra

Hitchcock, Alfred: Vertigo (1958)

**Hitchcock, Alfred: Psycho (1960)**

**Hitchcock, Alfred: Birds (1963)**

**Sturges, John: The Magnificent Seven (1960)**

**Billy Wilder: Sunset Blvd. (1950)**

Billy Wilder: Some Like It Hot (1959)

**Billy Wilder: The Apartment (1960)**

Billy Wilder: Irma la Douce (1963)

**David Lean: Docto Zhivago (1966)**

Ken Annakin: Battle of the Bulge (1966)

Robert Wise: The Sound of Music (1964)

**Altman: MASH (1970)**

**Denis Hopper: Easy Rider (1969)**

Roger Corman: The Last Woman on Earth (1960)

**Warren Beatty: Bonnie and Clyde (1967)**

---

Blake Edwards: Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961)  
**Mike Nichols: The Graduate (1967)**  
Sergio Leone: Once upon a Time in the West (1967)  
Polanski: Rosemary's Baby (1968)  
**Stanley Kubrick: 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)**  
Peter Bogdanovich: Paper Moon (1973)  
**F. F. Coppola: The Conversation (1974)**  
**Stephen Spielberg: Duel (1971)**  
**George Lucas: American Graffiti (1973)**  
Milos Forman: Taking off (1971)

---

**Learning outcomes:** The course introduces students to the most important tendencies of the American film-history between cc.1945 and 1973.

---

**Indicative Reading:** Kristin Thompson-David Bordwell: Film History. An Introduction. New York: McGraw-Hill,  
Bordwell-Staigenr-Thompson: The Classical Hollywood Cinema. London: 1985. pp. 309-385. (Part III., IV., V.) Wright, William: Six guns and society: a structural study of the Western. London: 1975.

---