

Code: FLMD-213E.17

Course title: History of American Cinema: an Introduction

Course convenors: László Strausz

Class time and place: Biweekly, Wednesday 9-12:15 @ 40

Course type: Lecture

Course content: This course is designed as an introductory class to the history of American cinema. It attempts to map the shifting formal, institutional and cultural paradigms that have significantly impacted the development of American cinema. Throughout the course, we will critically investigate the transformation of the mainstream and alternative modes of production, distribution and exhibition.

1. **September 15:** Introduction to film history. Basic concepts.
2. **September 29:** Early American cinema. Formation of the studio system.
3. **October 13:** Institutions of classical Hollywood cinema.
4. **November 3:** Crisis. Hollywood renaissance.
5. **November 17:** Conglomerates. New platforms. Convergence.
6. **December 1:** Outside Hollywood: independent film.

Requirements: Participants will have to regularly attend the sessions and prepare for classes by familiarizing themselves with the required readings. Each week there will be a short quiz on the readings, which will count towards your final grade. Participants will work on a final research project to be submitted during exam period.

Final grade: based on participation, weekly quizzes, final exam

Learning outcomes: Student will familiarize themselves with the basic tenets of aesthetic, social, technological and institutional aspects of film history. Throughout the course, these general skills will be applied to the studying of postclassical American cinema.

Indicative Screening/Reading: Most readings come from the book Thompson-Bordwell: Film History: An Introduction. 4th Edition (McGraw-Hill, 2019) abbreviated as **TB**.

	Read	Watch
Sep 15	Allen-Gomery: 3-23	
Sep 29	TB: 17-21, 26-31, 125-146.	Griffith shorts: The Lonely Villa, The Girl and her Trust etc.
Oct 13	TB: 173-177, 190-212	The Maltese Falcon, Casablanca
Nov 3	TB: 292-315, 462-479	Bonnie and Clyde, The Wild Bunch
Nov 17	TB: 653-675, 686-702	Jurassic Park, The Dark Knight
Dec 1	TB: 301-304, 479-481, 675-681	Freaks, Killer of Sheep, She's Gotta Have It

Readings and films will be uploaded to <http://lstrausz.web.elte.hu/>
