

Code: FLMD-322.94; FLMD-232E.11

Course title: Popular Culture, Popular Cinema

Course convenors: Balázs Varga

Class time and place: Thursday 09:00-10:30, room -137

Course type: Seminar

Course content: The course will explore key theoretical questions and contexts of popular culture and popular cinemas. During the semester we will discuss each topic in two sessions: first, we will examine a theoretical essay with close reading of the text; second, we will have a case study with film/genre analysis.

Preliminary list of topics/genres/films for discussion:

- The Godfather, crime, and social order
- Love Actually, romantic comedy and social integration
- All About My Mother, melodrama and gender
- Braveheart, national identity and historical epics
- *Money Heist* and outlaw heroes
- Marvel's Universe, (super)heroes and global politics

Participants are required to regularly attend the course (more than 3 absences result in an incomplete), to watch the films, read the assigned texts weekly and give a presentation (case) during the course in an oral and (at the end of the semester) written form.

Learning outcomes: Participants will become familiar with the historical and theoretical contexts of popular culture and with the key questions of popular cinema.

Indicative Reading: Cawelti, John G.: The Concept of Formula in the Study of Popular Culture. *Journal of Popular Culture* 3 (1969) no. 3. pp. 381–390.
Carroll, Noël: *Minerva's Night Out: Philosophy, Pop Culture, and Moving Pictures*. Malden: Wiley, 2013.
Elsaesser, Thomas and Buckland, Warren: *Studying Contemporary American Film: A Guide to Movie Analysis*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2002.
Tinkcom, Matthew and Villarejo, Amy (eds.): *Keyframes: Popular Cinema and Cultural Studies*. London: Routledge, 2001.
Storey, John: *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture. An Introduction*. Routledge, 2013.