

Module code: MOD005225	Version: 1 Date Amended: 02/Feb/2016
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1. Module Title
Classical Hollywood Cinema

2a. Module Leader
Henry Miller

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module focuses on the practices, products and institutional frameworks of the classical Hollywood period. You will explore the narrative conventions that continue to shape the majority of mainstream commercial cinema and study the formal and stylistic features of the 'realist' text, the ideologies that inform it and its ideals of normative identities and lifestyles. You will explore coupling and heterosexual romance as a motor of plot development and as an intensely ideological aspect of films made in this period. Similarly, you will consider the significance of the 'happy ending' in maintaining or challenging key ideological norms and values. Drawing from some of the theoretical approaches encountered on earlier compulsory modules (Theorizing Spectatorship), you will think about classical Hollywood cinema's positioning of the spectator, and the implications for the construction of gender and racial identities. Finally, you will also consider the style conventions of different classical Hollywood film genres and debate their significance in helping to align spectators ideologically and emotionally in the narrative action.

6b. Outline Content

An overview of the key film genres, studios, filmmakers and stars of the Classical Hollywood period.

Debate the ideological role of stylistic choices, informed by an understanding of continuity codes and conventions.

Exploration of the role of the romantic couple and the double motivation of classical Hollywood narration.

Survey key aspects of the American Dream, and consider its evolution through the classical Hollywood era.

In-depth discussion of the importance of stars in helping to articulate ideas about gender, sexuality, and other aspects of American ideology.

Consideration of the social and political contexts that shaped film production in the Classical Hollywood period.

Present the distinction between aspects of spectacle and aspects of storytelling in Classical Hollywood cinema.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate critical understanding of the codes and conventions of classical Hollywood narration and style
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Develop an awareness of the social and political contexts that shaped film production in the Classical Hollywood period
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Integrate theoretical and textual analysis in an address to Classical Hollywood's mode of narration

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	0	N/A	N/A
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-3	2hr seminar per week
Student managed learning	126	1-3	Hours to include independent viewing, research, and reading
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-3	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2500 word critical analysis essay, supported by oral presentation					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above**
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements**

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]