

Module Title: US Cinema: Key Concepts

Module Code: FLM4204

Credit Value: 30

Level: 4

Pre-requisite modules:

Content Description

This module aims to foster a sense of the historical development of the US cinema from its origins in the late nineteenth century through to the 1970s. We will consider Hollywood, independent, and avant-garde filmmaking. Students will be introduced to a number of different concepts, including genre, narrative, mise-en-scène, performance/stardom, cinematography, editing, sound, and censorship. Attention will be drawn to how issues relating to race, gender and social class, give shape to the US cinema. The module seeks to cultivate analytical thinking and ethical and political awareness and the ability to communicate at a high level in written and spoken form.

Module Aims

This module aims

- to foster a good general sense of the historical development of mainstream, independent and avant-garde cinema in the United States from its origins in the late nineteenth century through to the 1970s.
- to provide students with the skills necessary to analyse individual films, and film in general, via the attainment of a working knowledge of a number of different key concepts including genre, narrative (incl. point of view), mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound, performance (incl. stardom), and censorship.
- to make students aware, via specific engagements recurring throughout the module, of how issues relating to race, gender and social class, give shape to the US cinema
- to cultivate personal qualities (ability to learn independently, and write and research to a high level), transferable skills (negotiating/working effectively with others, objective-setting, planning and creativity), and ethical and political awareness (of US cinema, film studies as a discipline, and higher education).

OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module students will be able to

- describe the broad historical development of the cinema in the US from its origins in the late nineteenth century through to the 1970s;

- deploy a number of different conceptual frames – such as genre, narrative (incl. point of view), mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound, performance (incl. stardom), and censorship – in order to conduct in depth film analysis;
- be able to use these conceptual frames to address thematic and political issues, especially as these relate to race, gender, and social class;
- demonstrate personal qualities (ability to learn independently, and write and research to a high level); display transferable skills (negotiating/working effectively with others, objective-setting, planning and creativity); and speak to ethical and political positions in relation to US cinema, film studies as a discipline, and higher education as a whole.