

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Hollywood: Early Film to Blockbuster
2	Module Credits	40
3	Module Level	4
4	Module Code	MED4166

5	Module Overview
<p>This module introduces you to Hollywood film through its early, classical and post-classical traditions. The module is structured around the examination of these three stages of development, with a range of debates that also allow you to evaluate American cinema through its stylistic, generic, industrial and historical features.</p> <p>Part one of the module is entitled Early American Film: Attractions and Actualities and explores the birth of the American film industry and its narrative features, patterns of stardom and modes of exhibition.</p> <p>These debates are complimented by the second part of the module: The Hollywood Studio System: Patterns, Genres and Formulas. This section provides a key part of the module, and you will spend several weeks considering the industrial and technological changes that led to the birth of classical American cinema as an integrated and global entity. Some of the topics that you will discuss as part of your studies here include the role of genre in the development of the classical Hollywood system, while you will also consider how American film cycles such as <i>film noir</i> and melodrama reflected wider historical trends and tensions of the 1940s and 1950s. This section of the module concludes by considering the industrial, economic and legal factors that led to the decline of the classical Hollywood studio system.</p> <p>The third and final part of the module is entitled New Hollywood: From Incoherence to Blockbuster, and considers more recent generic, narrative and industrial trends in American film. Some of the topics that you will consider here include a case-study of narrative complexities in 1970s American film, as well as discussions around the nature of the contemporary Hollywood blockbuster. More recent modes of American film (such as Indiewood traditions) are also considered in this section of the module, alongside the consideration of how digital technologies are changing the way Hollywood tells its stories.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
<p>The module will consist of a weekly lecture and seminar/workshop, while weekly screenings are integrated into teaching times and assessment tasks.</p>	

7	Module Learning Outcomes On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:	
	1	Demonstrate recognition and understanding of Hollywood cinema in its stylistic and generic contexts.
	2	Locate Hollywood cinema in relation to wider historical and industrial contexts.
	3	Recognize the key features of classical/post classical cinema patterns of narration through close textual analysis of related screenings.
	4	Produce work which shows an understanding of Hollywood codes and conventions.

8	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1, 2, 3, 4	X		
1, 4			X

9	Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	Hours	
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	60	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	260	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	80	
Total Study Hours:	400	