

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	American Cinema since 1949: Margins and Mainstreams
2	Module Code:	MCLT 33405 / FATV30215
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Year Long
5	School:	Arts & Humanities
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date this version first approved to run:	October 2006

8 Pre, post and co-requisites:

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

<u>Pre, Co, Post</u>	<u>Module Code</u>	<u>Module Title</u>
Pre	MCLT20712	Theorising the Screen

9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
3	Elective	FT	HUMA003	BA (H) Communication & Society and Film & TV
3	Elective	FT	HUMA010	BA (H) English and Film & TV
3	Elective	FT	HUMA018	BA (H) European Studies and Film & TV
3	Elective	FT	HUMA024	BA (H) Film & TV and Global Studies
3	Elective	FT	HUMA025	BA (H) Film & TV and History
3	Elective	FT	HUMA026	BA (H) Film & TV and International Relations
3	Elective	FT	HUMA027	BA (H) Film & TV and Linguistics
3	Elective	FT	HUMA028	BA (H) Film & TV Philosophy
3	Elective	FT	HUMA047	BA (H) Media and Film & TV
3	Elective	SW	MODL005	BA (H) French and Film & TV
3	Elective	SW	MODL019	BA (H) German and Film & TV
3	Elective	SW	MODL032	BA (H) Italian and Film & TV
3	Elective	SW	MODL043	BA (H) Mandarin Chinese and Film & TV

3	Elective	SW	MODL050	BA (H) Spanish and Film & TV
		FT	EURX003	European Exchange (Full Year)
		FT	INTX003	International Exchange (Full Year)

10 Overview and aims

This module will introduce the American (USA) cinema since 1949 to the present day around three distinct but interrelated areas of production. These include Hollywood, the Independent Sector, and the experimental-underground cinema. 1949 is a key year in American film history marking legislation, The Paramount Decree that divested the Hollywood studios of their control over the three areas of production, distribution and exhibition. This legislative move has been understood as having a dramatic effect upon American cinema on a number of levels that have been summarised as the Classical/Post-Classical debate. This module will examine the diverse landscape of American cinema since 1949 ranging from Hollywood blockbusters to marginal filmmaking.

Key areas of emphasis running through the module will be

- A decade by decade breakdown
- The relationship between film form and ideology
- The relationship between film, US politics and US history
- The relationship between film and national identity
- Critical debates and key approaches to American Cinema
- Close examination of key directors and genres

11 Module content

The module takes a linear approach to the history of American cinema by taking each decade as representative of a particular cultural and ideological unit. Each decade will, on the one hand, illustrate both the dominant film form, the style trends of the period, the most significant genres and auteurs, and the dominant ideology. However, each decade will also explore the alternative and independent modes of film practice that often challenge the hegemonic position occupied by both Hollywood and the dominant ideology. Through attention to multiple sites of film meaning, production and consumption this module will illustrate the tensions and contradictions of American culture through cinema, illustrating the range of forms and styles, the key concerns and ideologies, and the full range of expressions in American film since 1949.

12 Indicative reading

- James, D. E., (1989) *Allegories of Cinema: American Film in the Sixties*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Matlby, R., (2003) *Hollywood Cinema*. [2nd Edition]. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Prince, S., (2000) *A New Pot of Gold: Hollywood Under the Electronic Rainbow*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

- Wood, R., (1986) *Hollywood From Vietnam to Reagan*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Wyatt, J. & Holmund, C. eds., (2005) *Contemporary Independent American Cinema*. New York: Routledge.

13 **Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Understand and apply fundamental and advanced concepts of media and cultural studies as they relate to film.
- Analyse and interpret American film with specificity and rigour Produce critical and textual analysis of American cinema at an advanced level of understanding
- show critical understanding of how formal, cultural, ideological and national contexts have shaped American film
- Distinguish between Hollywood, Independent and Underground cinemas in ways which demonstrate achievement of the module's learning outcomes.
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Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

- Show competence and confidence in the use of library and IT resources to include word processing, email and internet
- Display advanced competence in independent learning strategies and research capability
- Communicate effectively in writing
- Be resourceful and self-motivated in approaching your academic work and display sound time-management skills
- Deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas
- Demonstrate the module's learning outcomes when examined under timed conditions and show deeper learning and familiarity with the curriculum

14 **Teaching and learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars

The module will be taught interactively, incorporating elements of lecture, screening, seminar/workshop and smaller group/individual discussion as appropriate to group size and teaching personnel.	
Total contact hours:	78
<i>Range of other learning methods</i>	
This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research	
You will be provided with directed reading material in most weeks and will be encouraged as the module proceeds to become increasingly resourceful in researching independently both in reading and viewing of other study materials.	
Total non-contact hours:	122

15 Assessment methods			
This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module			
<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	50%	Essay	2000 Word Essay
2	50%	Exam	2 Hour Exam
Diagnostic/formative assessment			
This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark			
Participation and engagement in seminar work and workshops on a group and an individual basis			
Further information on assessment			
This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate			

Document management		
16	Module Title:	American Cinema since 1949: Margins and Mainstreams
17	Module Code:	MCLT34405
18	Subject (JACS) Code	P300

19	Cost Centre	145										
20	School:	AAH										
21	Academic Team	ECM										
22	Campus	2 (Clifton)										
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>										
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Institution</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23a Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23b Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23c Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>23d Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Institution	%	23a Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		23b Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		23c Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU		23d Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU	
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24	Date this version was formally approved by SASQC/DAG:											