AIMS & OBJECTIVES

1. Through a study of film this module will examine the interpretation of history in film, and contrast filmic representation of history with printed sources. Students will critically evaluate a set of issues regarding film and history such as: What light do films shed on the past? How reliable are films as the grounds for making inferences about the past? What are the similarities and differences in the criteria for the critical evaluation of historical films and the historian's accounts of the past? The module is for students with an interest in film as a form of social expression.

2. On completion of this module students should be able to:
   • Initiate, conduct, and present findings on an aspect of film and history.
   • Develop and present arguments in a critical assessment of the ways in which popular films represent the past.
   • Deploy appropriate methodologies to evaluate the tension between social events and the representation of them in film.
   • Appreciate the debates over the interaction between the personal and the social in film.
   • Grasp the diverse genres that have characterised filmic depictions of social and cultural phenomena over the twentieth century, the context of twentieth-century cinema, and the contexts that shape the subjects of the films viewed and appreciate the methodologies that have produced this knowledge.

TEACHING MODES

Four hour lecture-film showing. Students will read prior to the lectures and can use the remainder of the session to discuss in groups issues raised by the films. Group discussions will primarily occur outside the classroom through the IVLE.

SCHEDULE

Lecture and Film Showing: Monday 4pm to 8pm (or when the film finishes).
LT11.
SYNOPSIS

The module will commence with an introductory session covering methodological and theoretical issues regarding film and history. This will be followed by three themed areas of filmic representation. Topics vary from year to year. You should evaluate whether or not you want to take this module based on the information provided here and on the course web page. Be sure to read the student feedback about the module. Most students enjoy this module finding it both fun and challenging (read the feedback we are not making this up), but some students do get frustrated by the way the module works. If after reading all the material here you still do not understand what the module is about and how it works, and you already have received a place in it through CORS, come to the first lecture and listen carefully and then make your decision whether to take it or not.

SYLLABUS

**Part I Introduction** (Week 1: August 11)

**Part II History, Facts, Memory, and Narrative**
1) What do we remember about the past? (Week 1: August 11)
   Film: *Memento* (2000)

2) What's the Use of Facts? (Week 2: August 18)
   Film: *Rain Man* (1988)

   Film: *The Right Stuff* (1983)

4) Grandeur. ...there's something to be said for exploring beautiful places. (Week 4: September 1)
   Film: *From the Earth To the Moon* (1998)

**Part III Film, History and Stereotypes**
1) "China is here." I don't even know what the hell that means. (Week 5: September 8)
   Film: *Big Trouble in Little China* (1986)

2) I tell you the story because I was raised the Chinese way. (Week 6: September 15)
   Film: *The Joy Luck Club* (1993)

**Part IV Sign of the Times**
1) Precious Bodily Fluids (Week 7: September 29)
   Film: *Dr. Strangelove* (1964)
2) Have you thought about graduate school? (Week 8: October 6)
Film: The Graduate (1967)

3) Yippie Ki Yay! (Week 9: October 13)
Film: Die Hard (1988)

Film for Essay (to be advised) (Week 10: October 20)

Part V Tough Guys and Dudes
1) I collect blondes and bottles. (Week 12: November 3)
Film: The Big Sleep (1946)

2) Yeah, well, you know, that's just, like, your opinion, man. (Week 13: November 10)
Film: The Big Lebowski (1998)

ASSESSMENT
The assessment in this module will be entirely continuous, without a final exam.

CA: 100%:
Students must complete five (5) assignments/projects. On average, assignment/project every second week.

5 Projects (50%)
Project 1 due noon Friday August 22
Project 2 due noon Friday September 5
Project 3 due noon Friday September 19
Project 4 due noon Friday October 17
Project 5 due noon Friday November 14

Discussion Group participation every week is graded on quality not quantity (25%)
The deadline for participation in discussion groups is 8pm the day before the projects are due (Thursday).
Hence, for Discussion 1, the closing date is 8pm Thurs Thurs August 21
Discussion 2: 8pm Thurs September 4
Discussion 3: 8pm Thurs September 18
Discussion 4: 8pm Thurs October 16
Discussion 5: 8pm Thurs November 13


Plagiarism will result in at very least a zero grade (0) for the assignment and students will be reported to their respective faculties. Students should consult the following link on how to avoid plagiarism:
TEXT & REFERENCES

All the essential readings are either available online through the links below or on IVLE under: Library eReserve. Be sure to download and save the reading because each individual student can only access it once through the Library eReserve.

**Core reading:** (Under each project question, there will be a main reading. For each film, there will be supplemental readings and films. All key readings are available through the IVLE)


**PROJECT 3: Film, History and Stereotypes** Hugh Cortazzi, "Asian Values May Not Be Particularly Asian": [http://www.sfdonline.org/sfd/Link%20Pages/Link%20Folders/Human%20Rights/values.html](http://www.sfdonline.org/sfd/Link%20Pages/Link%20Folders/Human%20Rights/values.html)


