HI200-15 Screening Subjects: Cinema, Science and Medicine in the Twentieth Century

26/27

Department
History
Level
Undergraduate Level 2
Module leader
Anna Toropova
Credit value
15
Module duration
10 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Having roots in late nineteenth-century studies of human movement and neurological disorders, the cinema has been closely intertwined with science and medicine since its emergence. This module will trace cinema's development as a key instrument of medical training, scientific research and health education in the first half of the twentieth century. In seminars, we will explore how a range of disciplines in the human sciences turned to film as a tool of documentation, analysis, demonstration and public communication. Examining how the cinematic medium has shaped ideas about health, illness and treatment, the module explores film's role in articulating new modes of seeing the 'normal' and the 'pathological'.

Module web page

Module aims

This 15 CAT module introduces students to key developments in scientific and medical cinematography from the late nineteenth century to the aftermath of WWII. The seminars will

explore cinema's emergence as a key technique of managing and regulating the human mind and body while also considering the ways in which film has challenged the agendas of biomedicine. Students will have the opportunity to closely analyse a range of medical and scientific films from the US and the UK, the Soviet Union, Germany, Italy, France and Romania, and to develop their understanding of cinema's role in twentieth-century scientific and medical history.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The course will be taught over 9 weeks. The first part of the module (weeks 1-5) will cover the use of film in the analysis of human movement, in clinical observation and in the advancement of public health initiatives. The second part of the course (weeks 6-9) will explore attempts to study the film viewer's psychophysiology, to harness cinema's powers in the service of therapeutic goals, and to translate medical and scientific ideas into a popular vernacular. We will also consider the 'dark side' of medical cinema—the use of film in the advancement of eugenic agendas.

This is an indicative module outline (actual sessions may differ):

Week 1: Physiology, Neurology and the Cinematic Analysis of Human Movement

Week 2: Reading Medical and Scientific Films

Week 3: Medical Cinematography during the First World War

Week 4: Cinema, Observation and the Psy-disciplines in the Interwar Period

Week 5: Cinema, Health Enlightenment and Behaviour Transformation

Week 6: Probing the Heart and Mind of the Viewer: Scientific Enquiries into Film Spectatorship

Week 7: The Hypnotic Screen: Film as Therapy

Week 8: Cinema and Eugenics

Week 9: Freud comes to Hollywood: Medical Themes in Popular Cinema

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the ways in which film has been deployed in medicine and the human sciences from the late nineteenth century to the aftermath of WWII.
- Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of medical and scientific films as well as other primary source material including photographs, medical brochures and scientific reports.
- Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.
- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing interdisciplinary scholarship on

medical and scientific filmmaking.

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Specific reading list for the module

Interdisciplinary

The module aims to bring together the history of science and medicine, and film studies.

International

The primary sources deployed in the module include medical and scientific films from the US and the UK, the Soviet Union, Germany, Italy, France and Romania.

Subject specific skills

Students will:

Acquire a detailed knowledge of the ways in which film has been deployed in medicine and the human sciences from the late nineteenth century to the aftermath of WWII;

Generate ideas through the analysis of medical and scientific films as well as other primary source material including photographs, medical brochures and scientific reports;

Acquire skills in analysing and evaluating the contributions made by existing interdisciplinary scholarship on medical and scientific filmmaking.

Transferable skills

Students will be able to:

Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity;

Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	130 hours (87%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

The module requires students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
3,000 word essay	80%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Seminar contribution	20%		No
Reassessment component			

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
1000 word Reflective Essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)

Feedback on assessment

Students will receive written feedback on their assessed essay.
Teaching on this module will include meaningful in-class support and feedback to help students prepare for their substantive assessment. This may include, for example, class exercises on film analysis and work-in-progress presentations.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ34 Undergraduate English and History (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)