

HI33Y-30 The Historical Film: Global Perspectives in the Age of Netflix

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

J.E. Smyth

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This year-long survey of the historical film analyses the development and dominance of feature historical filmmaking from the silent era to the age of Netflix. Although weekly topics and individual key films may change from year to year, the module will explore the Hollywood tradition alongside the work of filmmakers from Europe, Asia, and the Global South.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Readings, lectures, and seminar discussions will consider issues in historiography, documentary, television series, and gaming alternatives; screenwriting and editing; ideology and genre; censorship; race, gender, class, and sexuality; exhibition and reception. Course readings will be divided among traditional and revisionist historiography, memoirs and historical literature later adapted for the screen, screenplays, recent critical assessments of 'filmed history', and archival material. Past topics include women's history on screen, representations of wartime collaboration and resistance to fascism, the biopic, Russian cinema from Eisenstein to Sokurov, the British Empire film genre, the transnational western, the 'Rashomon' effect, and postmodernism.

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.

Term 1

1. The Age of Netflix
2. Film & History: Beyond 'Separate But Equal'
3. D.W. Griffith and the Origins of Film Censorship
4. Global Hollywood
5. Soviet Montage
6. Russian Ark
7. The Gender of Film History
8. Working-Class Biopics
9. Film Noir and Brit Noir

Term 2

11. The Western
12. Global West: Karl May and Sergio Leone
13. Empire as a Way of Life: Britain in the 1930s
14. Postcolonial Critique and 'Lawrence of Arabia'
15. The 'Rashomon' Effect
17. Remembering the 'Good War'
18. Resistance, Collaboration, and Conformists
19. Documenting the Holocaust
20. Nostalgia and Postmodernism

Term 3

21. The Streaming Giants and the End of Film
22. Review Session

Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of the origins and development of the historical film in Hollywood and other 'national' traditions in Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, China, and Russia
- Critically analyse and evaluate classic and ongoing debates within the humanities about the representation and construction of history on screen
- Effectively communicate ideas, and make informed, coherent and persuasive arguments, relating to the content and form of history and biography in film, literature, and historiography and the reasons for shifts in discursive emphasis over time
- Critically review and consolidate theoretical, methodological, and historiographical ideas relating to the historical film

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	260 hours (87%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require 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			
Seminar contribution	10%		No
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
1500 word essay	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000 word essay	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
7 day take-home essay with citations and a bibliography	40%		No
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback provided via Tabula; optional oral feedback in office hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 4 of UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 4 of UHIA-V104 Undergraduate History (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V9 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Intercalated Year)
- UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 3 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 4 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL17 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Intercalated Year)
- UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 3 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 4 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 4 of UITA-R3V2 Undergraduate History and Italian
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM15 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)