

**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
**COURSE APPROVAL FORM**  
**NEW COURSE**



College: AHSS Prefix/Subject Code: HY Course Number: 360

Banner Title: American History Through Film Credit Hours: 3 First Offered: Fall 2017  
(32 Characters)

Full Course Name: American History Through Film: History and Hollywood

Instructional Method: Online  Hybrid  Classroom

Prerequisites: n/a

Min. Grade: n/a

Co-requisites: n/a

Prerequisites with Concurrency: n/a

Restrictions: n/a

*Class, Level, Department, Program, College, etc.*

Grading System: A-F  S-U

Cross-listed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cross-listed courses must provide both graduate and undergraduate syllabi.*

Catalog Description: (300 Characters)

This course will explore how motion pictures have shaped our views on American history and how the past has shaped movie making.

Does this course involve multiple academic units in the originating college? Yes  No   
*If so, the chair of each academic unit must sign this form.*

Is this course to be added to Charger Foundations? Yes  No   
*If so, the Charger Foundations committee must review this form.*

Does this course involve academic units external to the originating college? Yes  No   
*If so, deans of all colleges involved must sign this form.*

Is this a Laboratory course (stand alone or combined)? Yes  No   
*If yes, indicate the number of credit hours for the lab and the number of contact hours.*

Lab Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Credit Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate the type of course and hours.

<input type="checkbox"/> Studio Course	Studio Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Course	Clinical Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Internship	Internship Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Study Abroad	Abroad Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture	Lecture Hours: <u>3</u>	Contact Hours: <u>3</u>	Total Credit Hours: <u>3</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Research	Research Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Topics	Special Topics Hrs: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation	Dissertation Hrs: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis	Thesis Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Co-Op	Co-Op Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Ensemble	Ensemble Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Validation	Validation Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recitation	Recitation Hours: _____	Contact Hours: _____	Total Credit Hours: _____

Compare with existing catalog offerings, with justification if apparent overlap:

HY 360 will look at how American history has influenced Hollywood and how motion pictures have influenced American culture over time. Unlike CM 334, which explores the history of cinema making, HY 360 highlights how film can be used to understand broader historical themes.

Discuss demonstrated value of course. Please justify why this new course is needed.

This course will allow for the use of feature films, documentaries, and other formats in a meaningful way as a primary source. The focus on film will also allow for larger discussions on art, business, and technology and how our views about the past have been shaped by Hollywood.

Will this course be required? Explain.

No

Is this course part of a program core? Explain.

No

Is this course part of a new major or minor? Explain.

No

Textbooks: Robert Toplin: History by Hollywood: The Use and Abuse of the American Past

Intended Instructors: John F. Kvach

Implications for faculty workload: None

Implications for facilities: None

*A detailed syllabus must be attached giving an overview of topics covered, course goals and structure, grading system, and policies.*

Department Chair: Stephen Waring

Digitally signed by Stephen Waring  
DN: cn=Stephen Waring, o=UAH, ou=History  
Department, email=swarings@uah.edu, c=US  
Date: 2017.01.20 12:36:29 -0600

Grad. Council: \_\_\_\_\_

College Dean: 

Graduate Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

College Curriculum Committee: 

Undergrad Curriculum Cmte: \_\_\_\_\_

Charger Foundations: \_\_\_\_\_

Provost: \_\_\_\_\_

*Acknowledgements from other units:*

Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

College Dean: \_\_\_\_\_

History 360  
Hollywood and American History  
10:15 am- 12:15 pm MTWTH  
Kvach

Dr. John Kvach  
Office: 407 Roberts Hall (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
Office Hours: Immediately after class  
Phone: 256-824-2570  
Email: John.Kvach@uah.edu

### **Course Description**

Examines American Hollywood film making as an art form, a business, and a shaper of culture. Identifies film techniques and traditional stories. Students explore the language of film and how film communicates. This course is not designed to cover international/world cinema, nor are the films we watch meant to cover every aspect of American filmmaking. We will study the language of film by looking at film technique, film structure (narrative structure), and how specific films have shaped American culture in the last hundred years.

### **Course Objective**

The larger goal of this course is to teach students how to critically analyze and evaluate films as cultural texts that open up a window into American society. We will learn how to use popular American films to understand competing perspectives on American history, culture, and society. If you disagree with an argument or perspective, or find it biased or limited, then say so. This class will:

- Gives students the opportunity to explore the role of film in expressing and reflecting aspects of human experience.
- Gives students the opportunity to explore the role of motion pictures in their lives and on American Society.
- Connects the communications medium of film with the philosophies and historic events which shape America.
- Provides the intellectual framework to study the contributions of diverse film makers.

### **Required Books**

- Faulkner, *Intruder in the Dust*
- Steinbeck, *Grapes of Wrath*
- Toplin, *History by Hollywood*
- Gallagher, *Causes Won, Lost, and Forgotten*

### **List of Assignments**

- **Final Exam (100 points)** This will be a short answer and essay exam based on the books we read and the movies we watch.
- **2 Movie/Book Reviews (2 x 100 points=200 points)** You will be required to write two 1000 word review essays based on the *Grapes of Wrath* and *Intruder in*

*the Dust*. We will talk more about this assignment in class. A good film review examines both how a film works and how and why it affects the viewer the way it does.

- **Research Paper (100 points)** This paper will be 5-7 pages for undergraduates and ~~8-10 for graduate students~~. You will get more information in class.
- **Class Discussion Leader (100 points)** Each of you will lead a discussion in class that will last for a half hour. You will work with others in class to create a discussion theme and will provide background information and context to your lecture.

### **Class Grading Scale**

500-450= A

449-400=B

399-350=C

349-300=D

299-000 =F

### **Notice from the Office of Disability Support Services**

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for all qualified students with disabilities. Disability Support Services (DSS) is responsible for coordinating services for eligible students. Covered disabilities include, physical/medical, psychological, learning, and/or ADHD. Any student who has a documented condition that substantially limits his or her learning activities can request coordination of appropriate academic support services. Appointments may be scheduled by coming to the office in the University Center, Room 113 or calling 824-6203.

## **Class Schedule**

### **Week 1: From Still Pictures to Silent Film to Big Sound**

#### **In Class Screening:**

Roundhay Garden Scene (1888)

The First American Movies, Thomas Edison (1891-1895)

The Movies Begin, Actualities (1897-1910)

Life on an American Fireman (1902)

The Great Train Robbery (1903)

Gone With the Wind (1939)

#### **Assignment:**

Read Gallagher's *Causes Won, Lost, and Forgotten* (Pages 16-89); read Toplin's *History by Hollywood*

### **Week 2: Hollywood Goes to War**

#### **In Class Screening:**

The Birth of a Nation (1915)

The Great Dictator (1940)  
Best Years of Our Lives (1946)  
Why We Fight #1 Prelude to War (1943)  
Triumph of the Will (1941)  
World War 2 Returning Troops Newsreel  
History Channel Short Clip on World War 2

**Assignment:** Watch and read *Intruder in the Dust* and write book/movie review

### **Week 3 and 4: Hollywood as an Agent of Change and Big Business**

In Class Screening:

The Grapes of Wrath  
The Searchers  
In the Heat of the Night  
Harlan County, USA

**Assignment:** Watch and read *Grapes of Wrath* and write book/movie review.

### **Week 5: Hollywood as Art and Culture**

In Class Screening:

The Third Man  
The Grand Budapest Hotel  
Soviet Union Film Clips  
German Film Clips  
Italian Film Clips  
Japanese Film Clips

**Assignment:** Read and watch *Intruder in the Dust* and write a book/movie review.