

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: AMERICAN CINEMA HISTORY
Status: Definitive
Code: **4010FILM** (117647)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2015

Owning School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Screen School

Team	Leader
Ruth Doughty	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 12.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 30.00
Total Learning Hours: 120 **Private Study:** 90

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	10.000
Workshop	20.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS2	2,000 Words Essay	90.0	
Practice	AS1	Practice - Participation element	10.0	

Aims

1. To explore key aspects of American cinema history until 1960.
2. To examine different ways of writing film history: industrial, aesthetic, social, technological.
3. To identify the industrial and stylistic parameters of "classical Hollywood" cinema.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an understanding of aspects of American cinema history until 1960.
- 2 Display an awareness of the different possible approaches to film history.
- 3 Identify the key industrial and stylistic parameters of "classical Hollywood" cinema.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2,000 Word Essay	1	3
Participation	2	

Outline Syllabus

Early and silent American cinema
The studio system
The classical film
The star system
Genre
Censorship
Independent cinema in the studio era
Anti-communism and the 1950s witch-hunts

Learning Activities

Lectures, Screenings and workshops.

Notes

The module explores American cinema until 1960, focusing on the key industrial, technological and aesthetic transformations that emerged in the first sixty years of its history. Emphasis will be placed on the formation of the studio system, the concept of "classicism" in terms of narrative and style, the function of stars and genres, as well as the impact of broader social and historical events on American cinema.