

Liverpool John Moores University

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Title: Black American Film
Status: Definitive
Code: **6039FILM** (128869)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

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

Team	Leader
Ruth Doughty	Y
Corin Willis	

Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 44
Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 156

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 1

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	11
Workshop	22

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	Pres	Group Presentation	30	
Essay	Essay	Essay - 2500 words	70	

Aims

1. To explore the history of African American representation in American cinema.
2. To introduce students to a range of theoretical and analytical perspectives from which to study Black texts.

3. *To situate the development of Black filmmaking and black identity within wider debates of race, class, gender, culture and American nationality.*

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 To articulate detailed knowledge of how African American identity has been constructed by the film industry.
- 2 To critically apply various theoretical readings to Black American cinema.
- 3 3. To analyse and rigorously evaluate how Black directors have had to create a voice from the margins.
- 4 4. To critically evaluate Black filmic performances and productions within a historical context.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Group Presentation	1	2	3	4
Essay - 2500 words	1	2	3	4

Outline Syllabus

1. *Introduction to Black American Representation: Minstrelsy*
2. *FIELD TRIP: Liverpool Slave History - Museum and Walking Tour (Lawrence Westgaph)*
3. *Race Movies: Early Black Filmmaking*
4. *The New Negro: The Emergence of the Black Film Star*
5. *The Narrative of Passing: The Tragic Mulattoe*
6. *Blaxploitation and Black Power*
7. *CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT WEEK*
8. *The Conservative Colour Line: 80s Buddy Movies*
9. *The New Black Aesthetic and the Ghetto Imagination*
10. *Intersectionality: Female Voices*
11. *Inappropriate Appropriation: The White Director*
12. *The Postracial Era? Black Lives Matter*

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Workshops and a Field Trip.

Notes

This module introduces students to the history of African American representation in film. The course will involve different theoretical readings and will situate African

American filmmaking and identity within wider debates of race, culture, class, gender and American nationality. The module will also inform students of Liverpool's role in the Atlantic Slave trade and involve a field trip to the Museum of Slavery and a walking tour of the city identifying historical sites.