

## 27847 - Films in Context I

### Syllabus Information

**Academic year:** 2023/24

**Subject:** 27847 - Films in Context I

**Faculty / School:** 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

**Degree:** 416 - Degree in English

**ECTS:** 6.0

**Year:**

**Semester:** First semester

**Subject type:** Optional

**Module:**

### 1. General information

The goal of this module is the study of English-language films from 1925 to 1975. It is aligned with the following Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda:

Goal 4: Quality education. Goal 5: Gender equality. Goal 10: Reduced inequalities. Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the goals

### 2. Learning results

Learning outcomes:

- Students are able to explore and discuss (in English, level C1.1) stylistic and cultural aspects of films released between 1925 and 1975.
- Students are able to discuss the ideological meanings of a given film in English (level C1.1).
- Students are able to write essays in English (level C1.1) on aesthetic and cultural aspects of films released between 1925 and 1975.
- Students are familiar with the bibliography discussed or read during the course.
- Students can write an essay in English on the aesthetic and cultural aspects of the given films.
- Students are able to read, listen to and give their opinion on specific aspects of the bibliography or the texts analysed in the module.
- Students use the concepts and tools necessary for the formal and cultural analysis of filmic texts produced between 1925 and 1975.
- Students are able to analyse the texts and contexts studied during the course.

### 3. Syllabus

#### Part 1

- 1 The transition to sound and early experimentation in the 1930s. Early sound films. Comedy. The films of Ernst Lubitsch.
- 2 The Production Code and Classical Hollywood Cinema. The star system and the studio system. Screwball comedy
- 3 The Paramount decision and the 1950s. The Post-War and cultural change. The comedies of seduction

#### Part 2

- 4 The films of Alfred Hitchcock. Hitchcock's influences. Point of view and film form. Major themes.
- 5 *Film Noir*. The creation of noir. Visual style and narrative structure. Alienation and determinism. Noir and feminism.
- 6 The New American Cinema.

### 4. Academic activities

In-class activities:

- a) Lectures: Presentation of formal, historical and cultural aspects.
- b) Seminars: Individual and group work. Textual analysis.
- c) Individual and/or group activities: How to write an academic essay. Feedback on essays.

Out-of-class activities:

- a. Watching the movies of the syllabus. Writing essays for the continuous assessment option.
- b. Reading compulsory texts in the reading list.
- c. Students' revision of the module contents.
- d. Final exam.

## **5. Assessment system**

### ***FIRST CALL***

Depending on the number of students, one of these evaluation systems will be proposed:

#### **Course work:**

- a) Four essays on the compulsory films (600 words) (60 %)
- b) Two essays on two specific aspects of the compulsory readings (800-1000 words) (40%).
- c) Attendance and active participation in class

#### **Global exam**

Part 1: Theory (50%). One or two questions about a text in the reading list.

Part 2: Essay (50%).

Students need to pass both parts in order to pass the module.

### ***SECOND CALL***

Global exam (100%)

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. Students must demonstrate both an informed and a critical understanding of the key theories discussed in class.
2. Students must show familiarity with different modes of film analysis.
3. Students should be familiar with the genres and film traditions discussed in class.
4. Students should be able to write an academic essay in English (C1.1) on a specific aspect of one of the compulsory movies.