

# North Hennepin Community College

## TFT 1310: American Cinema

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: \*.\*

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

American Cinema is a class in which students look at American films that have played a role in American film history from its beginnings to the present. They explore America's filmmaking history and its contributions to American culture, specifically considering the many diverse communities portrayed in these films as well as filmmakers from these often minority communities. These selections include films by or about African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, Native Americans, GLBT Americans, and the contributions of American Women throughout film history. The course consists of viewing, analyzing, discussing and writing about American films as a means of understanding the impact of these works on our diverse American culture.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/22/2011 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Provides familiarity with the history of film in America as well as some of the most influential American films that continuing film students should know including the following (not every topic listed will be covered in every section every year):

Early Cinema (1893-1914)

The Silent Era (1915-28)

Technical Innovation/Industrial Transformation (1927-38)

Hollywood in Transition (1939-45)

Adjusting to Post-War America (1945-55)

Moving toward a New Hollywood (1955-67)

Hollywood Renaissance (1968-80)

A New Hollywood (1982-99)

New Horizons for Cinema (1999-now)

Minority Communities

## **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Articulate a more developed sense of American film history and its influence on our diverse culture (Program Goals 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a)
2. Demonstrate an awareness of how film traditions and filmmaking developments in America have contributed to culture at times both inhibiting and developing our understanding of cultural diversity; by contributing to discussions, doing journal writing, and composing papers that recognize diversity and show an attempt to consider things from their new understanding of 'The Other's' point of view. (Articulate a more developed sense of American film history and its influence on our diverse culture (NHCC ELOs/Program Goals 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 3b, 4b; MnTC G 6, comp a, b, c; MnTC G 7, comp a, b, c, d,e;
3. Practice using critical skills (interpretive, evaluative, and analytical) toward understanding a filmmaker's intent, evaluating the effects of his or her choices, and judging the quality of those choices, not only from a common American perspective, but also from the perspective of the diverse community which it portrays; articulating their reaction and why they reacted the way they did. (Articulate a more developed sense of American film history and its influence on our diverse culture (NHCC ELOs/Program Goals 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 3b, 4b; MnTC G 6, comp b, c, e; MnTC G 7, comp a, b, c, d, e)
4. Show knowledge of American film history, film terminology, and film genres that include films by and for minority American communities, many times seeing ways in which certain film classics have influenced present day American movies and culture; to demonstrate recognition of major American filmmakers who helped develop the form. (Articulate a more developed sense of American film history and its influence on our diverse culture (NHCC ELOs/Program Goals 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 3b,4b; MnTC G 6, comp a, c; MnTC G 7, comp a, b, d, e)
5. Experience evaluating a film's social context and its political and religious influence; to show that film is not only an entertainment, but also a powerful tool for communication of a point of view across America. Articulate a more developed sense of American film history and its influence on our diverse culture (NHCC ELOs/Program Goals 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 3b,4b; MnTC G 6, comp a, b, c, e; MnTC G 7, comp a, b, c, d, e)

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

### Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

**G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted