

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTTPC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	Communications
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Mainstream Cinema: Studies in Genre
Course Code:	COM 6415
Course Leader:	John Chua
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring or Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course investigates the development of genre films over a historical period. Students examine issues critical to genre studies, which can include iconography, key themes, authorship, and stardom. Specifically, through a study of film criticism and theory, students consider the evolution of a few popular genres from the 1920s to the present. The course also explores the idea that genre films necessarily retain basic similarities while changing over time to reflect cultural concerns and to keep audience interest. In addition, the course provides an opportunity for students to examine and compare the perspectives of Hollywood and non-Hollywood genre films.

Prerequisites: COM 5200 or COM 5205

Aims and Objectives:

This course aims to explore central questions in the study of mainstream cinema such as: How do genres develop? What do genre films reveal about society's identities, ideologies and fears? What are approaches to analyse the form and grammar of mainstream genres? By the end of the semester, successful students will have:

- A critical understanding of the theoretical approaches to the study of mainstream cinema.
- Further developed a range of skills to research and assess varying source materials as they relate to genre films, synthesize available information and develop academic arguments and reasoned judgments, and appreciate genre films in their cultural contexts.
- The ability to critically analyse a range of mainstream genres.
- Further developed a range of practical skills in relations to: critical writing and clear communication, the ability to link theory, evidence and social issues, and effectively manage time and independent study.

Programme Outcomes :

6A(i); 6B(iii); 6C(i); 6C(iii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

- Development of a systematic understanding of the historical, socio-cultural and political evolution of various genre films, including their aesthetical traditions and forms, current characteristics and possible future developments.
- Development of a systematic understanding of the ways audiences engage with cultural texts and practices of genre films, and make meaning from them.
- Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to gather, organise, analyse and deploy complex, abstract and competing ideas regarding mainstream cinema in order to effectively make comparisons and connections, identify possible new concepts and formulate arguments in clear communication.

Indicative Content:

- Key definitions and terms in the study of mainstream cinema
- Origins of genres
- Genre Ideologies
- Semantic/syntactic approach to examining genres
- Genders and genres
- Genre films in the age of globalization
- Rhetoric of the remake
- Hollywood studios versus independents

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

The course includes screenings of full-length features as well as a few shorter clips. These will be followed by weekly lecture and class discussion. There will be additional assigned films to watch outside of class time. For some assignments in particular, students will be asked to seek out and analyse films of their own choosing as active researchers. Students

