

Hagerstown Community College

MASTER SYLLABUS

[Please note that this course has not yet been taught by current history faculty, and will not be offered for at least another year. L. Kuehnert, Jan. 2015]

COURSE: HIS 208 (American Culture and History in Cinema), 3 credits

INSTRUCTOR: TBA [Lore Kuehnert]

SEMESTER/YEAR: Spring 2015

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Using modern and classic films, this course examines the relationship between the entertainment industry and American history. Viewing, discussing, and writing about the films as both works of artistic expression as well as depictions of historical fact allows students to gain valuable insights about how history can be presented and how entertainment can influence our beliefs. Recognizing the power and impact of commercial films and why they alter factual events encourages students to assess the historical message in a more objective light. Understanding the traditions and conventions of filmmaking also builds an appreciation of the artistic aspects of the film industry. This course can be taken as either a Humanities or History elective. Total of 45 hours of lecture.

TEXTBOOK: Davis, Natalie Z. *Slaves on Screen: Film and Historical Vision* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate an aesthetic understanding of the creative process of film-making by explaining how and why historical events and people are used by film studios and producers as vehicles to convey various themes and ideas;
2. Students will identify these themes and ideas and explain, both orally and in writing, how they are used to entertain and influence the public;
3. Students will weigh and judge the validity and accuracy of these films and their messages against the background of American society and to make judgments of the artistic and cultural value of popular entertainment.
4. Students will gain insights, by viewing films from a wide array of time periods, about the process and speed by which events, attitudes, perceptions and people have changed American society, and/or have been changed by it.
5. Students' weekly writing assignments will develop their skills of critiquing and analyzing artistic endeavors.

General Education Outcomes: 1) Students will be able to critically analyze and evaluate issues derived from the Social Sciences utilizing appropriate methodologies. 2) The student will be able to demonstrate how culture, society and diversity shape the role of the individual within society and human relations across cultures.

Credit Hour Definition:

Lecture course

To earn one academic credit at HCC, students are required to complete a minimum of 37.5 clock hours (45 fifty-minute “academic hours”) of coursework per semester. For most classes, students should expect to do at least 2 hours of coursework outside of class for each hour of in-class coursework. Students enrolled in a three-credit history course at HCC can expect to spend a minimum of 127.5 hours on coursework: 37.5 hours in class and, generally, ten hours preparing for exams, 35 hours completing course assignments, and 45 hours reading.

Activity	Direct Faculty Instruction	Student Work Out of Class
In-class lecture and activities	37.5	
Reading/Viewing course materials		45
Study for Exams		10
Completion of Assignments		35