

DRA 106 Film Appreciation: Introduction to Film

3 hours, 3 credits

An introduction to the popular art, the movie. An introduction to basic concepts leading to a greater appreciation of film forms, an elaboration and elucidation of selected films.

DRA 198 Latino Image in Film

3 hours, 3 credits

DRA 243 Black Female Sexuality in Film

3 hours, 3 credits

This course examines how film both reflects and shapes the perception of society about the sexuality of black women. It explores three black film movements — the pre-Civil Rights era; the 1970s Blaxploitation era; and the black film culture that has emerged since the 1980s — from an historical, sociological, and psychological perspective, illustrating each movement with screenings and discussion. Films are examined from their cultural archetypal “feminine” coding, their “messages” and influence, and how audiences responded to them. The course will also examine films from the economic and social context in which they were made and the conditions under which they were produced. Students will expand their media literacy skills by learning to develop a critical eye as consumers of media images.

Prerequisites: ENG 101, SPE 113, and sophomore standing

DRA 399 Film Criticisms

3 hours, 3 credits

In this course students will master a range of approaches to the study of the cinema. They will watch and study individual films, including thrillers, comedies, musicals and horror movies, and study film movements and national cinemas, such as Asian action films, Bollywood dramas, European art cinema, feminist filmmaking, and cinema from developing nations. Students will apply a range of critical and theoretical approaches to these films and cinema movements, such as historical criticism, auteur theory, genre study, rhetoric, feminist and Marxist criticism, queer theory, postcolonial, and aesthetic theory. Students will generate written and verbal studies of film and deepen their critical, argumentation, and reasoning skills through participation in classroom debates and discussions. The topics explored will vary from semester-to-semester depending on the instructor's area of specialization.