

Module Title	American History/American Cinema 1860-2000
Level	5
Semester	2
Ref No:	
Credit Value	20 CAT Points
Student Study hours	60 Contact Hours 140 Student managed learning hours: including 10 hours of VLE related activity and preparation –with a focus on reading & considering extracts from original materials.
Pre-requisite learning	None
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Module Coordinator [Name + e mail address]	Caitríona Beaumont beaumoca@lsbu.ac.uk
Parent Division	Social Sciences
Parent Course	BA History
JACS Code	
Description [100 words max]	This module introduces students to key events in American history 1860-2000. Themes to be explored include liberty, freedom, democracy and the concept of the frontier in American culture. The module will assess American history through the lens of American cinema and popular culture. The utilisation of cinema will ensure that students develop the ability to engage with diverse sources when studying history. The module will consider how gender, race, religion and sexuality have shaped American society and how these themes are represented in film and popular culture over the course of the twentieth century.
Aims	This module aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduce students to the key events in American history • explore how these events have been represented in American cinema and popular culture • provide students with an understanding of how historical and contemporary events are re-imagined, re-interpreted and re-shaped when presented via the medium of film and what impact this has on understandings of past events • encourage students to consider how audiences respond to this re-telling of the past within popular culture and how this in turn has influenced American history, culture and identity.
Learning outcomes	On successful completion of the module students will have: <p>Knowledge and Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gained a knowledge and understanding of the major events leading to change and continuity in American history 1860-2000 • the ability to interpret how the American film industry has developed and to appraise how it has represented American history on screen <p>Intellectual Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to review, synthesise and evaluate evidence and information in order to develop a critical awareness of how American cinema has represented American history, culture and identity since 1900 • the ability to assess and evaluate continuity and change in American history and to identify the problematic nature of historical interpretation, specifically in relation to contrasting ideological perspectives and competing public agendas <p>Practical Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilised effectively secondary and primary sources, including visual and

	<p>material sources to facilitate their understanding of American history through American cinema</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying different concepts, theories and methods to the analysis of historical, social and cultural ideas, institutions and behaviours <p>Transferable Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information; and familiarity with appropriate means of identifying, finding, retrieving, sorting and exchanging information • The ability to work with others, and have respect for others' reasoned views and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals
Employability	<p>Students taking this module will develop a number of key skills currently required by employers of graduates. These include: oral and written skills, problem solving, planning and organisation, team work, decision making, drive and initiative and project management skills.</p>
Teaching & Learning Pattern	<p>The module will be taught in a four hourly weekly slot made up of lectures, workshops, film screenings and group work/group presentations.</p>
Indicative content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: America in the 1860s: the legacy of Slavery and Civil War • Abolition, Reconstruction and Segregation • The creation of the Hollywood film industry • The Great Depression and the Golden Era of Hollywood • Second World War: War on film • The 1950s: Affluence, the 'red scare', gender and racism • The 1960s: the Hollywood Renaissance, revolution and counter culture • The Civil Rights Movement: activism on the streets and on screen • The Vietnam War: War on film • The 1970s: New Hollywood, blockbusters, women's liberation and Watergate • 1980s: Neo-liberalism, American foreign policy and new black cinema • 1990s: Re-imagining the American past, new queer cinema and globalisation
Assessment method (Please give details – of components, weightings, sequence of components, final component)	<p>Formative Assessment: Each student will be required to write a short film review blog linking the themes of the movie with the study of American history. The blog will be uploaded on the module moodle site and reviewed during the weekly workshops with feedback from tutors and fellow students.</p> <p>CW1: A group presentation (50%) based on one of the key themes of the module CW2: An unseen end of module two hour exam (50%)</p>
Indicative Reading	<p>CORE READING: J. Belton, <i>American Cinema/American Culture</i> (2012) H. Brogan, <i>The Penguin History of the United States of America</i> (2001) R. Maltby, <i>Hollywood Cinema</i> (2003) J. Patterson, <i>America in the 20th Century</i> (1999) M. Stokes, <i>American History Through Hollywood Film: from the revolution to the 1960s</i> (2013)</p> <p>OPTIONAL READING: B. Bailyn et al, <i>The Great Republic: a history of the American People Vol 2</i> (1992) D. Boogle, <i>Toms, coons, mulattos, mammas and bucks: an interpretive history of blacks in American films</i> (1994) E. Foner (ed), <i>The New American History</i> (1997) R. Maltby & M. Stokes, <i>Hollywood Spectatorship: changing perceptions of cinema audiences</i> (2000) P. Manseau, <i>One Nation, Under Gods: A New American History</i> (2016) C. Milner et al (eds), <i>Major Problems in the history of the American West</i> (1997) M. Norton & R. Alexander (eds), <i>Major Problems in American's Women's History</i> (2006) R. Slotkin, <i>Gunfighter Nation: The Myth of the Frontier in Twentieth Century America</i></p>

(1992)

R. White & P.N. Limerick, *The Frontier in American Culture* (1994)

H. Zinn, *A People's History of the United States* (2015)

FILMOGRAPHY:

The Birth of a Nation (1915)

The Jazz Singer (1927)

Stagecoach (1939)

The Wizard of Oz (1939)

Gone with the Wind (1939)

Citizen Kane (1941)

Casablanca (1942)

High Noon (1952)

On the Waterfront (1954)

The Night of the Hunter (1955)

The Searchers (1956)

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1956)

Shadows (1959)

Some Like it Hot (1959)

West Side Story (1961)

The Manchurian Candidate (1962)

Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964)

Bonnie and Clyde (1967)

The Graduate (1967)

Easy Rider (1968)

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)

The Last Picture Show (1971)

Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song (1971)

The Godfather (1971)

Mean Streets (1973)

Chinatown (1974)

The Conversation (1974)

Jaws (1975)

Taxi Driver (1976)

All the President's Men (1976)

The Deer Hunter (1978)

Dawn of the Dead (1978)

Apocalypse Now (1979)

Alien (1979)

Raging Bull (1980)

Missing (1982)

Salvador (1986)

Dirty Dancing (1987)

Do the Right Thing (1989)

Glory (1989)

Dances with Wolves (1990)

Last of the Mohicans (1992)

Pulp Fiction (1994)

Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Good Night and Good Luck (2005)

Milk (2008)

There Will Be Blood (2008)

Django Unchained (2012)

12 Years a Slave (2013)

Lincoln (2013)

Selma (2014)

Other Learning Resources

Module VLE: The moodle site presents a more visual dynamic and interactive point of contact and dissemination for the module. The site details the structure of the

module, functions as a document repository and contains links to online (including audio-visual) learning materials for example to newspapers, organisations, digital archives, reports etc.

Box of Broadcasts

www.JSTOR.org

A wide range of online sources and digital resources will be used to teach this module including:

Chronicling America: American Historic Newspapers

http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/#tab=tab_search

Library of Congress: American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Internet Movie Database www.IMDb.com

FilmFour www.channel4.com/film

Twitter and wordpress sites for a range of individuals and organisations linked to American history and the history of American Cinema.