

**Course title:** Arts: Genres in American Cinema

**Course code:** MSA0943

**Type of course:** compulsory

**Level of course:** MA

**Year of study:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Semester:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**Number of ECTS credits allocated:** 6

**Name of the lecturer:** Odette Blumenfeld / Veronica Popescu

**Course objective:** The course aims to improve students' knowledge of American culture and civilisation, with emphasis on Hollywood cinema, showing the important role it has played in American culture, and it also aims to enable students to identify and classify various film genres preferred and exploited by Hollywood studios at various historical and cultural moments.

**Course contents:** The birth of cinema as art: the first decades of American cinema; the golden Hollywood studio era (1930-45): the appearance of specific traits and of formulae in Hollywood successful productions; comedy; the western as an expression of national American character and as Hollywood invention; the musical; action and horror movies; gangster movies; adventure movies; the thriller; a new era in Hollywood cinema – a transitional period (1946-65); film noir – the appearance of cinicism and pessimism in American cinema; war movies – major traits, hero types; thematic cliches; the evolution of the western after WWII; science fiction movies and their audience in the last decades of the 20th century and today; auteur film; contemporary American cinema.

**Recommended reading:** Gaines, Jane (ed.) – *Classsical Hollywood Narrative: The Paradigm Wars*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 1992; Gledhill, Christine (ed.) – *Stardom. Industry of Desire*. London: Routledge. 1991; Grant, Barry Keith (ed.) – *The Film Genre Reader*. Austin: University of Texas Press. 1986; Grodal, Torben Kroch – *Moving Pictures: A New Theory of Film Genres, Feelings and Cognition*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1997; Solomon, Stanley J. – *Beyond Formula: American Film Genres*. New York: Harcourt Brace. 1976

**Teaching methods:** lectures, workshops

**Assessment methods:** midterm; final (written) test

**Language of instruction:** English