

*Title and Code of Course:* American Film and Culture.

*Instructor's Name:* Dr. Lindsey Richter

*Instructor's Email Address:* richtel@grace.edu

Credit Point Value: <b>6</b>	Number of Lessons per Week: <b>2</b>	Type of Course: <b>Seminar</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Lecture</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Method of Evaluation: <b>Oral Examination</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>In-Class Presentation</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------------------	---	--	--

**Course Description:**

This course charts the developments of American film, from early cinema through the Golden Age to contemporary movies, and covers a range of American genres, including film noir, Westerns, and science fiction. We will explore the way these works reflect American culture and society, and in some cases even shape Americans' images of themselves and of other cultures. Students will learn to analyze the language and storytelling of film, recognizing the ways that technical aspects of cinematography allow a filmmaker to portray cultural perspectives, myths, and experiences.

Students in the class will be required to actively engage in analysis and discussion of films during the seminar. For their final project, students will select a film to view and critique, and will present their own analysis on its use of cinematic structures to explore a cultural theme.

**Bibliography:**

Archer, Neil. "Looking for America – Part One: The Us Road Movie." In *The Road Movie: In Search of Meaning*, 11–40. Columbia University Press, 2016.

Boggs, Joseph M., and Keith Jackson. *The Art of Watching Films : A Guide to Film Analysis*. Mayfield Pub Co; 5th edition. January 1, 2000.

Booker, M. Keith. *Alternate Americas : Science Fiction Film and American Culture*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 2006<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/arch17647.5>.

Coyne, Michael. *The Crowded Prairie : American National Identity in the Hollywood Western*. London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 1997.

Naremore, James. "American Film Noir: The History of an Idea." *Film Quarterly* 49, no. 2 (1995): 12–28. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1213310>.

Quart, Leonard, and Albert Auster. *American Film and Society since 1945*. 4th ed. Santa Barbara ; Denver ; Oxford: Praeger, 2011.

The Routledge Companion to Film History, edited by William Guynn, Taylor & Francis Group, 2010.