
FILM NOIR in Fall 2018 (FM2090)

Course Code	FM2090	Professor(s)	Alice Craven
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-110
Class Schedule	TF: 12:10-13:30 in G-L21	Office Hours	Tuesday and Friday 16:45-17:45
Credits	4	Email	acraven@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	680

Course Description

This course examines America's most enduring cinematic myth: *film noir*, a deeply pessimistic style that appeared abruptly in Hollywood films of the 40s. These are films in which the whole of society seemed caught in the darkened webs of crime, existentialism or despair. We consider the varying theoretical perspectives on the origins of *film noir*; its role as a genre or phenomenon; the stylistic basis of the films attributed to the world of *film noir*; and the cultural *milieu* from which it emerged. We also take a look at its sub genres and the effects of *film noir* on contemporary and international cinema. We additionally consider the crucial role played by varying media on the generation of *noir* narratives in cinema with limited focus on noir's impact in the world of television.

Course Learning Outcomes

students will have learned to analyze films noirs with respect to their historical, cultural and stylistic specificities

They will have gained a deeper understanding of its roots and the theoretical debates surrounding its status as a genre

they have become familiar with the classical corpus of films noirs, but they will also have learned to critically evaluate film noir's legacy and lasting effects on cinema history

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World,

Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

Reading and Viewing Schedule:

Make-Up Schedule to be Announced in Week 6

September

Week 1-Overview of preconceptions about Film Noir. *While the City Sleeps* (Fritz Lang).

The Poetic Realist Roots of Film Noir. Reading: Chapter 1 of Naremore.

Week 2-*Pepe Le Moko* and the Alienation and Containment of the Urban Space

Week 3-The Role of the American Gangster Film and Gangster Casting in the Evolution of Noir. *The Roaring Twenties*. The Influence of German Expressionism: themes and styles. Films discussed: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *Murderer Among Us*. Reading: Chapter 2 of Naremore. Warshaw's "The Gangster as Tragic Hero" summarized in class.

October

Week 4-The Beginnings of the High Noir period. Films to be considered: *Scarlett Street* with study notes; *Woman in the Window* and *Murderer Among Us*. Lang's Role in the High Noir period.

Week 5- The Evolution of Sound in the Film Noir. Supplementary Reading: "The Voice in the Cinema" by Mary Anne Doane. Analysis of Robert Siodmak's *The Killers* and Billy Wilder's with study notes.

Week 6-The Femme Fatale as Camera Code. Film to be analyzed: *Out of the Past*, *Laura*. Reading: Chapter 3 of Naremore. The Beginning of the End: Politics, the Specter of McCarthy: Films to be analyzed: *Kiss Me Deadly*; if time, *Pick-up on South Street*. Reading: Naremore chapter 4

Week 7- The Celebrated auteurs of the high noir and transitional period. Excerpts from Welles and Hitchcock. Focus on *Touch of Evil*. *On Dangerous Ground* and the Iconoclasts Nicolas Ray

and Ida Lupino.

Mid-Term papers due 23 October.

November 2 No classes.

November

Week 8-Presentations Begin. The Neo-Noir. Films to be Analyzed. *Chinatown*; *L.A. Confidential*; Selected Others. Reading Naremore Chapter 5.

Week 9-Moving Beyond Neo-noir. Films to be analyzed. Jonathan Demme's *Wild Thing*; the Yuppie Nightmare sub-genre, excerpts to be determined.

Week 10-Corporate Crime. Film to be Analyzed. *Michael Clayton*. Selected Excerpts from International (Focus on Johnnie To and Kurosawa) Crime. Reading: Naremore Chapter 6.

Week 11-Noir and Race. Reading: Naremore Chapter 7. Focus Film: John Sayles' *In the Electric Mist*.

Week 12- Film Noir in the 21st Century. *The Dark Knight* Phenomenon. **Final Paper due 4 December.**

Week 13-Review for final Exam.

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
More than Night: Film Noir in its Contexts (Expanded Edition)	James Naremore	University of California Press	978 052025 4022	Yes

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE: The professor of this course adheres to the attendance policy articulated

below.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' pain related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Excessive absences result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if it is impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the exam Periods*.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation. Students are encouraged to visit the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admission process while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree requirements and senior theses.

Grading Policy

Presentations/ Panel Discussions and Participation	25 %;
Topic paper due 23 October	25%;
Final Paper due 4 December	25%;

Final Exam 18 December 12:00-14:30

25%._

Other
