

American Studies: 01:050:300:01
Erica Romaine
Spring 2006
Class meetings: T Th 3:55-5:15 RAB 001
Screenings: Tuesdays 7:15-10:05 RAB 001

Office: RAB 108B
Office Hours: Tues. 5:30-6:30PM
& by appointment
Office Phone: 732/932-9174
Home Phone: 732/249-2499 12-8PM
(don't abuse it)

**TOPICS IN AMERICAN STUDIES:
THE AMERICAN FILM MUSICAL**

Required Texts: Feuer, Jane: *The Hollywood Musical* (2nd edition)
Cohan, Steven: *Hollywood Musicals: The Film Reader*
Electronic reserve articles

Optional Text: Bordwell & Thompson: *Film Art* (any edition after 4th edition)
(highly recommended if you have not taken a film course before)

All books are available at the Douglass Bookstore. Electronic reserve is available through the Rutgers Libraries online.

Class Requirements and Policies:

This course requires the following work:

2 essays papers, one short (5-6 pages), one long (8-12 pages). These essays will require substantial analytical work with the films we will view and the articles we will read this semester as well as your own creative ideas and arguments.

Weekly quizzes on the film and assigned materials for the week. These quizzes will add up to the equivalent of an exam grade.

Class Participation and attendance: As this class will consist primarily of in-class discussion, your individual participation will count greatly toward your final grade.

Final Exam: This will be a full period exam including film sequences and at least one essay question, given during the assigned exam period for this section.

You must come to class and screenings regularly, on time, and having done the assigned reading, carefully. This course requires a sizeable amount of reading and the screening of all assigned films. Attendance at screenings is mandatory. There will be frequent quizzes based on our schedule of readings and screenings, so be sure to keep up.

Class begins at 3:55PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
Screenings begin at 7:15PM on Tuesdays.

Four or more absences or persistent late arrivals, will result in failure of this course

No late papers will be accepted. There will be no extensions granted unless you have discussed the problem with me in advance.

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There will be no make-up quizzes or exams.

Screenings cannot be repeated.

You are expected to know and abide by the policies on academic integrity as described in the Rutgers Student Guide. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Use proper citation to acknowledge all reading, film and research sources in your essays.

Keep a copy of everything you hand in to me.

Grading Policy Outline:

Quizzes and Exams: 30%

Papers: 50%

Class Attendance and participation: 20%

The American Film Musical
E. Romaine
Spring 2006

Preliminary Syllabus and Schedule

Tues. Jan. 17: Introduction to course

Read: Belton and Schatz reserves (#1 and 15) for Thurs.

Thurs. Jan. 19: Discuss readings and intro to film genre and the musical.

For next week, read: Glossaries, Schatz genre chapter, Belton,(reserves # 10,13,14,15,)

Screening: No screening this week.

Tues. Jan 24: Discuss industry, genre articles (Belton, Schatz, and glossaries).

Thurs. Jan 27: Continue discussion. Take quiz on film and readings.

For next week, read: Roth, "Some Warners Musicals and the Spirit of the New Deal" and Pts 1:3 and 1:4 Cohan book: Altman, "The American Film Musical as Dual-Focus Narrative", Rubin, "Busby Berkeley and the Backstage Musical"

Screening: THE JAZZ SINGER (1927) and excerpts from HALLELUJAH (1929)

Tues. Jan. 30: Continue discussion. For Thursday read Roth and Cohan Pt 1:3 and 1:4

Thurs. Feb. 2: Discuss film and articles, quiz.

Screening: 42ND STREET (1933)

Tues. Feb. 7: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read Altman "The Fairy Tale Musical" (reserve #6), DeCordova "Genre and Performance"(reserve #9)", Cook excerpt on Top Hat (reserve#4), Cohan book 1:3 Altman "The American Film Musical as Dual Focus Narrative"

Thurs. Feb. 9: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: TOP HAT (1935)

Tues. Feb. 14: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read Stanfield "From the Vulgar to the Refined..." (reserve#8), Dyer, "The Colour of Entertainment" (reserve#5)

Thurs. Feb. 16: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: SHOWBOAT (1936)

Tues. Feb. 21: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read Altman chapter "The Folk Musical" (reserve # 7), Bordwell/Thompson excerpt on "Meet Me in St. Louis" (reserve # 17), Feuer book chapters 1&2.

Thurs. Feb. 23: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (1944)

Tues. Feb. 28: Continue discussion

For Thursday read Schatz Musicals chapter (reserve # 2), Cohan book: pts 1:1, 1:2 and 4:12.

Thurs. Mar. 2: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (1952)

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Tues. Mar. 7: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read, Altman chapter on the Show Musical (reserve #TBA), Feuer book, chapter 4, Cohan book pt 2:7. Re-read Schatz musicals chapter (reserve #2). Read Belton musicals chapter (reserve #3).

Thurs. Mar. 9: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: THE BAND WAGON

SPRING BREAK-----NO CLASS ON TUES. MAR. 14TH AND THURS. MAR. 16TH.

Tues. Mar. 21: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read: Turim, "Gentlemen Consume Blondes" (reserve #11), Mulvey, "*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes: Anita Loos/Howard Hawks/Marilyn Monroe*" (reserve #12) and Cohan pt 2:6.

Thurs. Mar. 23: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES (1953)

Tues. Mar. 28: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read: Feuer Ch. 5.

Thurs. Mar.30: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: ALL THAT JAZZ (1979)

Tues. Apr. 4: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read: Feuer ch. 3&6 and Williams, "The Musical Film and Recorded Popular Music" (reserve #18)

Thurs. Apr.6: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: PENNIES FROM HEAVEN (1981)

Tues. Apr. 11: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read: Lee article/production notes (reserve # TBA), Cook article on genre (reserve #4), Garner article "I've Heard that Song Before.." (reserve # 16)

Thurs. Apr. 13: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU (1996) and excerpts from SCHOOL DAZE (1988)

Tues. Apr. 18: Continue discussion

For Thursday read article on Moulin Rouge TBA.

Thurs. Apr. 20: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Screening: MOULIN ROUGE (2001)

Tues. Apr. 25: Continue discussion.

For Thursday read article on Chicago, TBA

Thurs. Apr. 27: Discuss film and readings, quiz, exam review.

Final Exam:

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All Screenings at RAB 001
At 7:15 PM, Tuesdays.

Schedule of Screenings

Tuesday, January 17: No Screening

Tuesday, January 24: THE JAZZ SINGER (Crosland, 1927) and HALLELUJAH (Vidor, 1929) excerpts

Tuesday, January 30: 42ND STREET (Bacon/Berkeley 1933)

Tuesday, February 7: TOP HAT (Sandrich, 1935)

Tuesday, February 14: SHOWBOAT (Whale, 1936)

Tuesday, February 21: MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS (Minnelli, 1944)

Tuesday, February 28: SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (Donen, 1952)

Tuesday, March 7 : THE BAND WAGON (Minnelli, 1953)

SPRING BREAK

Tuesday, March 21: GENTLEMEN PREFER BLONDES (Hawks, 1953)

Tuesday, March 28: ALL THAT JAZZ (Fosse, 1979)

Tuesday, April 4 : PENNIES FROM HEAVEN (Ross, 1981)

Tuesday, April 11: EVERYONE SAYS I LOVE YOU (Allen, 1996) and SCHOOL DAZE (Lee, 1987)

Tuesday, April 18: MOULIN ROUGE (Luhrman, 2001)

Tuesday, April 25: CHICAGO (Marshall, 2002)