

American Studies 01:050:301:B1  
Summer 2007

Erica Romaine  
TTh 6PM-9:45PM

**TOPICS IN AMERICAN STUDIES:  
AMERICAN FILM NOIR**

Required Texts: Belton, John: *American Cinema/ American Culture* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)  
plus 5 articles on electronic reserve

**Class Requirements and Policies:**

This course requires the following work:

2 papers, one short (3-5pgs) and one long (8-10pgs). These essays will require substantial analytical work with the films we will view and the materials we will read this semester, as well as your own creative ideas and arguments.

Frequent quizzes on the film and assigned readings for the day. 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 and film viewing, your participation will count greatly toward your grade. Attendance is required for both classes and screenings. As this is a summer course with a tight schedule, anyone missing two or more classes will fail this course.

You must come to class on time and regularly, with the readings completed for each class. All screenings are required. Missed classes or frequent lateness will result in failure of this course

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.

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Summer I, 2006  
American Film Noir

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T Th 12 – 3:30

### Syllabus and Schedule

May 29: Introduction to Course

Reading Assignment: Belton: Ch.1

May 31: Continue with Hollywood and genre history

Reading Assignment: Belton Ch. 2

Screening: Double Indemnity

June 5: Discuss film and readings, quiz

Reading Assignment: Belton Ch.3

Screening: The Big Sleep

June 7: Discuss film and readings, quiz

Begin film technology and technique.

Screening: The Maltese Falcon

June 12: Discuss film and readings, quiz.

Work on film technology and technique.

No screening

June 14: Further work on tech.

Reading assignment : electronic reserve #1 Schrader

Get first paper assignment.

No screening

June 19: Discuss Schrader article

Reading assignment: electronic reserve #2&3 Cook and Place

Screening: Mildred Pierce

June 21: Discuss women in film noir, quiz.

First paper assignment due

Reading assignment: electronic reserve #4 Harvey

Screening: Out of the Past

Kiss Me Deadly

June 26: Begin the recent era of film noir, quiz

Reading assignment: electronic reserve #5 Silver

Get second paper assignment

Screening: Chinatown

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June 28: Continue recent film noir and “tech noir”, quiz  
Screening: Blade Runner

July 3: Continue discussion, quiz  
Screening: Brick

July 5: Final class discussion, quiz.  
Final paper due