

American Studies 01:050:301:H6
Summer III, 2008

Erica Romaine
TTh 6PM-10PM

TOPICS IN AMERICAN STUDIES:
AMERICAN FILM NOIR

Required Texts: Belton, John: *American Cinema/ American Culture* (2nd ed.)
Articles on electronic reserve

Class Requirements and Policies:

This course requires the following work:

2 papers, one short (3-5pgs) and one longer (6-8pgs). 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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Syllabus and Schedule

- July 8: Introduction to Course
Reading Assignment: Belton: Ch.1&2
- July 10: Continue with Hollywood and genre history
Reading Assignment: Belton Ch. 4 & 10,
electronic reserve # 1 Place/Peterson
Screening: The Maltese Falcon (1941)
- July 15: Discuss film and readings, quiz
Reading Assignment: Belton Ch.3,
electronic reserves #2 Borde/Chaumeton
#3 Higham/Greenberg
Screening: Double Indemnity (1944)
- July 17: Discuss film and readings, quiz
Begin film technology and technique.
*Get first paper assignment
Reading Assignment: electronic reserves #4 Durgnat, #5 Schrader
Screening: The Big Sleep (1946)
- July 22: Discuss film and readings, quiz.
Work on film technology and technique.
Reading assignment : electronic reserves #6 Cook, #7 Place, #8 Harvey
Screening: Mildred Pierce (1945)
- July 24: Further work on tech.
Reading assignment : electronic reserves #9 Nelson, #10 Kerr
Screening: Out of the Past (1947)
- July 29: Discuss Schrader article
*First paper assignment due
Reading assignment: electronic reserves # 11 Silver, #12 Grost
Screening: Kiss Me Deadly (1955)
- July 31: Discuss women in film noir, quiz.
*Get second paper assignment
Screening: Chinatown (1974)

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Syllabus continued:

Aug. 5: Begin the recent era of film noir, quiz
Reading assignment: electronic reserves #12 Verevis, #13 Schwartz
Screening: Blade Runner (1982)

Aug. 7: Continue recent film noir and “tech noir”, quiz
Screening: Brick (2005)

Aug. 12: Continue discussion, quiz
Final Paper due