This course focuses on the critical evaluation of the presentation of economic ideas, either explicitly or implicitly, in motion pictures.

Each student will be required to write an original paper critically analyzing, from an economic perspective, a specific film selected by the student. The film chosen may be used as an example of either a bad or a good application of economic theory. Alternatively, the film may be examined in terms of its being either a good or bad depiction of economic history.

At the end of the semester, each student will present to the class their paper along with selected video clips. The grade received for each paper will be based on both the written paper, the oral and visual presentation of the paper, and class participation.

The video tape used for your class presentation must be an edited version with only the clips from the original film which you will need to illustrate your analysis. Failure to observe this requirement will result in a reduction in your final grade.

The deadline for submitting completed papers is the class period before the scheduled date of your presentation.

All papers must be at least 20 pages, typed, double spaced, plus footnotes and bibliography. They must be prepared in a style which is in accordance with a standard manual of style, such as, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, by Kate L. Turabian, University of Chicago Press.

There are many sources for additional information. Some of these are:

1. The Holt Foreign Film Guide, by R. Bergan and R. Karney. A guide to over 2,000 non-English language films from more than 50 countries. Covers classics like La Dolce Vita and Z as well as more unusual films. Provides credits and appraisals. There are many similar guides available at Barnes and Noble bookstore.

2. Movies Unlimited Video Catalog. Catalog describes over 35,000 movies available on video. The Video Station has a listing of most movies available on video tape or laser disc.
3. The Filmgoers Companion, by Leslie Halliwell, in at least ten editions. Published by Harper Collins.


5. Film Comment, published bimonthly by The Film Society of Lincoln Center. Available in Norlin Library and is sold at Barnes and Noble bookstore.

6. Film scripts are available from many sources. Iconographics in Sante Fe, New Mexico is one source. Their phone number is 1-800-279-9779. You will probably have to leave your number and your requests, and they will call you back.


11. All-Movie Guide. CD-ROM software published by Corel Corporation. Has a database of 90,000+ films and is available for Windows 95 and Macintosh.

12. World Wide Web. A good place to start is:

http://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/movies_and_films/

Some Films and Some Ideas

A. Suppressed Inventions

The Formula

The Water Engine

The Man in the White Suite

B. Overpopulation (Malthusianism)

Soylent Green

Logan’s Run
C. The American free silver movement in the 1890's.


D. Cut Throat Business Practices

Oklahoma Crude

Tucker: The Man and his Dream

E. Price Controls and Black Markets

The Third Man

The Valachi Papers (maybe)

F. Labor Unions

The Pajama Game

Strike (Toward the Dictatorship of the Proletariat)

I'm All Right Jack

The Molly Maguires

Germinal

G. Labor Wage Theory

The Wages of Fear

Sorcerer (remake of The Wages of Fear)

H. Visions of the Future

1984 (two versions)

Blade Runner

Metropolis. 1926 German silent by Fritz Lang.

Brazil
I. Capitalism

The Smallest Show on Earth

Rollerball

Roger and Me

Gung Ho (not the Randolph Scott movie of the same title)

Tucker: The Man and his Dream

Ford: The Man and the Machine

J. Socialism (National Socialism, International Socialism, etc.)

Reds

Heavens Above

We the Living

Animal Farm

K. Finance

Rollover

Other People's Money

Wallstreet

L. Poverty

Oliver Twist, 1948 version directed by David Lean

Grapes of Wrath

Our Daily Bread

The Bicycle Thief
M. Miscellaneous

Citizen Kane

The Magnificent Ambersons

1900

The Godfather

N. Economic Theory

Ground Hog Day

A Man for All Seasons

O. The Railroads

Union Pacific