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.

Guide to Assembling Video Presentation

Academic Media Services has an "editing suite" that is available to students. This facility will enable you to assemble "out-takes" that you wish to use in the presentation you, will deliver near the end of the semester. This will allow you to simply start and stop your video without having to search through it during your presentation. Following the guidelines listed below should help you through this process.

a. Have a clear idea of what segments of the film you want, and what order you want them to appear. Additionally, you will need to determine where on the tape the segments appear by running time of the tape. While most home VHS machines list location by footage length, the machines at Academic Media Services use actual running time. In other words, how long into the film (by minutes and seconds) are the segments you wish to use.

b. When you have done this, contact Academic Media at 492-2670, and speak with Manu to schedule an appointment. Their hours are M-F 8-5.

c. Arrive for your appointment with your movie, a blank VHS tape, your footage locations, your student ID, and $5. Allow 1-2 hours for completing your tape.

d. Academic Media Services is located at Folsom Stadium, Gate 7, 3rd floor, room 310.
The deadline for submitting completed papers is the class period before the scheduled date of your presentation.

All papers must be at least 15 pages, typed, double spaced, plus footnotes and bibliography. They must be prepared in a style which is in accordance to 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. Browse in classification PN 1933 in the Reference Room and the Periodical Room of Norlin Library. Some of these sources 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. Iconographies 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.


13. Cineast. A magazine that covers the art and politics of the cinema.
14. World Wide Web


b. The Internet Movie Database: http://www.us.imdb.com or http://www.uk.imdb.com

c. Movie Review Query Engine: http://www.cinema.pgh.pa.us/movies/reviews

d. The Criterion Collection: http://www.voyagerco.com/criterion.cgi

e. Microsoft Cinemania: http://cinemania.com

f. Film Journal International: http://smartdev.com/titles1.htm

g. The French Connection: http://www.lemonade.fr/cannes96/links/cine.html

h. All Film Guide: http://205.186.189.2/amg/movie_root.html

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

   Z.P.G.

   Fortress

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

   The Wizard of OZ

D. Cut Throat Business Practices
Oklahoma Crude

Tucker: The Man and his Dream

Patterns

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

12:01

A Man for All Seasons

Jamaica Inn

O. The Railroads

Union Pacific

P. Property Rights

Jean de Florette and Manon of the Spring

Pride and Prejudice

Frontier Horizon

Q. Discrimination

The Jackie Robinson Story

The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings

Gentlemen’s Agreement

Black Like Me

Home of the Brave

Don’t Look Back: Story of “Satchel” Page