

This course takes the 2016 film *Moonlight* (Barry Jenkins) as its organizing text. We'll begin and end there but over the course of the semester we'll consider the questions about black cinema, independent cinema, and queer cinema that the film opens. We'll explore the director's influences including Hong Kong cinema, contemporary slow cinema from Mexico, Black Independent cinema, French cinema and Japanese cinema. We will delve into the history of Black Queer cinema, the politics of race and place/space, afro-latinidad, black queer masculinity, Hollywood's racist past and present, and the film's own complex and arresting sound design, color, and narrative temporality. Screenings will include the titles Jenkins put together for Lincoln Center in January of 2016 as well as films that illuminate some of the film's stakes, commitments, and context. Central to our discussions and readings will be a careful study of Jenkins's style and the storytelling possibilities that style engendered in *Moonlight*.

CTCS 469: *MOONLIGHT*: TEXT AND CONTEXT

Thursdays • 2:00 - 5:50pm
SCA 216 • Professor Laura Isabel Serna