



CTCS 564

BIRTH OF THE COOL

The term "cool" is one of the most widely used and concurrently one of the most misunderstood words in the American lexicon. There was a time however when cool meant something very specific. Taking its title from the classic Miles Davis album, Birth of the Cool, this course is interested in investigating the concept of "cool" and the way in which "the cool" has circulated through film, jazz, art and popular culture. What does cool look like? How has cool been represented in film and media? What does it mean for someone or something to be thought of as "cool"? What factors play into being accorded such a distinction? How has the meaning of this word changed over time? Is

"cool" organic or can it be manufactured? What happens when "cool" reaches the masses? How does the contemporary use of the word "cool," relate to more historical uses? **Screenings to include; Basquiat (1996), Bird (1988), Jackie Brown (1997), Elevator to the Gallows (1958), Miles Ahead (2016), Mo' Better Blues (1990), Lady Sings the Blues (1972), Round Midnight (1986), Amy (2015), What Happened, Miss Simone? (2015) among other titles.**

Professor Todd Boyd

Wednesdays 1:00-3:50 PM; 4:00-6:50 PM

