

CTCS 469 with Prof. Laura Isabel Serna
Thursdays 10-1:50PM

CTCS 469 will be taught with asynchronous screenings (do them on your own time), a two hour synchronous discussion from 10-12 on Thursdays, and optional workshops.



Accolades:

Awards Shows, Film Festivals and Rotten Tomatoes

Who decides if a film is great and what does that mean? This course examines the past and present of institutions and practices designed to establish "quality" in the world of cinema (commercial and otherwise). We'll focus on three important sites: the Academy Awards, Film Festivals, and film criticism, especially its recent crowd sourced form, Rotten Tomatoes. We'll pay particular attention to the way that COVID-19 has upended many of the institutional mechanisms established to identify and promote "good" cinema and how calls for racial justice have pushed institutions to confront the biases that permeate canons and gate-keeping institutions such as the Academy. Our readings, which will be drawn from cinema history, cultural studies, and sociology, will provide us with the critical tools we need to enter into this hotly contested critical territory.

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