

A movie poster for 'American Gangster' featuring Laurence Fishburne and Ice Cube. The title 'AMERICAN GANGSTER' is written in a white box with a red underline.

## AMERICAN GANGSTER



# CTCS 464: "THE GANGSTER FILM"

## DR. TODD BOYD

With the release of Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* in 1972, the gangster genre took on a renewed cultural significance. Though the gangster film has a long history in Hollywood, the remaking of the genre as a commentary on history, cultural identity, race, masculinity, and the "American Dream" elevated this genre in ways both popular and political. Over time the gangster would displace the cowboy as one of America's favorite fictional characters, becoming an especially important symbolic figure across the cultural landscape in the process. This course is interested in analyzing what we might refer to as the "modern American gangster," from the 1970s through the present. In addition to focusing on several cinematic gangster classics, the course will also observe the influence of the gangster film relative to other forms of media and popular culture. Screenings to include; *The Godfather*, *The Godfather Part II*, *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, *Scarface*, and *American Gangster*, among other titles.

THURSDAYS 1:00PM - 5:50 PM - SCA 108

