This class will focus on the work of writer-director Billy Wilder, from the noir thrillers Double Indemnity and Sunset Blvd. to the slapstick comedy of Some Like It Hot, the biting satire of Ace in the Hole to the romantic plights of The Apartment. As with any auteurist class, we'll explore Wilder's biography, influences, and stylistic and thematic preoccupations. But we will also use his career as a means to explore larger phenomenon of the Hollywood Studio System including the absorption of European immigrants, Classical Hollywood style, the studio system and its decline, film noir, the rise of independent production, norms around gender and stardom, and the breakdown of the Hays Code and censorship. Wilder was there for it all and his work and words will serve as our guide.

