

CTCS 200

History of International Cinema

Professor Henry Jenkins

Mondays 10 AM - 12:50 PM

As we are still dealing with the aftershock of the introduction of digital and mobile technologies and still marveling over the seemingly daily upgrades of AI, we should look back and consider today's legacy media when it was new. How did cinema become the movies? What was the response when this new medium was introduced? When early critics spoke of cinema as the "toy that grew up," what did they mean? How did artists in America, Europe, Asia, and elsewhere develop and deploy new techniques for visual storytelling? How did they react to the coming of sound? What did cinema do as an emerging technology that we would still recognize today and equally interesting what did cinema do which seems odd and unfamiliar to us today? And how did it become an institution which had political effects as it processed geopolitical events of the first third of the 20th century, including the first and second world wars and the sexual revolution associated with the flappers? What genres emerged? Why was slapstick and then melodrama, horror, the western, and the serial so important during the first years of cinema history? How did the talkies pave the way for the musical? Who made movies? Why were women more central to the early cinema period than at any other moment in the history of cinema? Who were the first BIPOC people to make movies? Stay tuned and all of your questions will be answered.

