

CTCS 464: The Gangster Film

Thursdays 1-5:50pm | SCA 108 | Dr. Todd Boyd

The gangster film has a long history in Hollywood. During the early 1970s the genre began to take on a renewed cultural significance. The remaking of the genre as a vehicle for commentary on history, cultural identity, 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 film” 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; *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, *Across 110th Street*, *The Godfather*, *The Godfather Part II*, *Scarface*, *Donnie Brasco*, *American Gangster* and *Gomorrah*, among other titles.

