CTCS 569 Birth of the Cool: Jazz and Film



4:00pm - 6:50pm SCA 112 Dr. Todd Boyd

The word "cool" is a widely used and especially popular term across the American lexicon. Yet the term's original meaning and overall history has often been forgotten. Looking to reconnect the term to its origins, the course, taking its title from the Miles Davis album, Birth of the Cool, is interested in exploring the origins of cool as it emerged from the world of jazz during mid 20th century America. Using both feature film and documentary, this course represents a cultural history of cool. The focus of this cultural history involves understanding cool as style, individual philosophy, creative genius, and cultural rebellion, among other themes and topics. Ultimately the course looks to explore cool as it came to influence American popular culture more broadly and culture across the globe as well. Screenings to include; Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool, Miles Ahead, Basquiat, Soundtrack to a Coup d' E'tat, Mo' Better Blues, Lady Sings the Blues, Bird, Amy, Round Midnight, I Called Him

Morgan, What Happened, Miss Simone? among other titles