

COURSE DETAIL

TRACING FILM NOIR

Country

Ireland

Host Institution

Trinity College Dublin

Program(s)

Irish Universities, Trinity College Dublin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Film & Media Studies

UCEAP Course Number

105

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

TRACING FILM NOIR

UCEAP Transcript Title

TRACING FILM NOIR

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

In this course students discuss and examine the emergence of film noir in 1940s American cinema. Students analyze its historical and sociopolitical origins as well as its complex connections to American hard-boiled fiction, the gangster genre, French Poetic Realism, German Expressionism, and existential philosophy. The course addresses the difficulties in categorizing film noir as a genre and asks whether it is better understood as a given historical cycle of films, a formal style, or an aesthetic sensibility. The course traces the influence of noir across genres and maps the many diverse paths it takes in cinema and other media forms from the late 1960s onward. The course examines the narrative patterns distinctive to film noir and identify key characteristics of noir iconography, sound, and performance. Students analyze the problematic philosophical questions that noir poses about gender, sexuality, identity, and the stability of the self. The course also addresses complex problems of temporality that are uniquely to the fore in film noir. Finally, the course attends to the diverse philosophical and critical impulses within noir and examines its significance in relation to psychoanalysis, existentialism, and affect theory.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

FSS040

Host Institution Course Title

TRACING FILM NOIR

Host Institution Campus

Trinity College Dublin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Film Studies

[Print](#)