

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

## **FILM-171**

### **Introduction To American Cinema**

3 Semester Hours

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

This course will focus on the history of American Cinema from the beginnings of the silent film era to the present day. Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of aesthetic principles as they apply to the film as an art medium. The student will view a wide variety of selected films and discuss them in class. The student will demonstrate a prescribed level of mastery of technical terms and concepts on examination. (3 hours weekly)

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Define specific photographic terms, including cinematic shots (medium shot, close-up, extreme close-up, deep-focus, wide-angle); camera angles (low, high, eye-level); and discuss the effects of lighting; color; and photographic styles of realists and formalists.
2. Explain the history of American cinema.
3. Define mise-en-scène and explain how composition influences the director's message.
4. Identify some editing techniques.
5. Explain the effects of sound, including music, dialogue, background, etc.
6. Distinguish differences in acting styles.
7. Define documentary and cinema-verité.
8. Identify some ways in which film directors manipulate audiences.
9. Identify key elements in film authorship, genre, ideology and theory.

### **Major Topics**

- I. Beginning of American Cinema
- II. Photography
- III. Mise-en-scène
- IV. Movement
- V. Editing
- VI. Sound
- VII. Acting
- VIII. Ideology
- IX. Genre

### **Course Requirements**

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member.

### **Other Course Information**

This course may be used as a Fine Arts elective, Humanities Elective, or Arts and Science elective. It is required of Theatre (Performance and Technical) majors.