

African Diaspora Cinema

AHC 4333/001

Instructor: Edit Toth

M 4-6:45 pm, AR 3.01.18A



The interdisciplinary course considers African Diaspora Cinema as it developed in the US, UK, the Caribbean, Brazil, and other parts of the world, including a few works from Africa as well. We will look at the history, theories, controversies, and politics around black cinema, covering a variety of types and genres, from the birth of cinema to independent films, experimental works, contemporary video installations, and even music videos. We will discuss the mainstream film industry's exclusion of people of color over the twentieth century and the alternatives these filmmakers proposed, the development of black mainstream cinema and American popular culture, creativity and inventiveness, dealing with stereotypes, the subject of migration, women filmmakers, LGBTQ+ and gender fluidity. The course embraces diverse film genres, including socially engaged cinema, drama, comedy, historical biopic, war, crime and neighborhood films, documentary, independent and art films, animation, and experimental video installations. We will pay attention to ways of storytelling, and the role editing, cinematography, and other digital techniques has played in shaping meaning in African Diaspora Cinema.