

HI955 Race, Gender, Hollywood
Dr. Smyth, H328

Term 2 Option, 30 CATS
Meets Tuesdays 10-12, with the exception of week 6

All films are available in the short loan collection of the library

Seminar 1: Inventing Whiteness: Race and National Identity

[Case Study: *The Birth of a Nation*, 1915]

Reading: Michael Rogin, "The Sword Became a Flashing Vision: D. W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*," *Representations* (1985): 150-95 (available on JStor)

Seminar 2: Nativism, Racism and Cultural Identity

[Case Study: *The Vanishing American*, 1925]

Reading: Zane Grey, *The Vanishing American* (1925); Walter Benn Michaels, *Our America: Nativism, Modernism, Pluralism* (1995)

Seminar 3: White Noise

[Case Studies: *The Jazz Singer*, 1927 and *Show Boat*, 1936]

Reading: Michael Rogin, *Blackface, White Noise* (1998); Linda Williams, *Playing the Race Card* (2002)

Seminar 4: Classical Hollywood and Women's History

[Case Study: *Gone with the Wind*, 1939]

Reading: Margaret Mitchell, *Gone with the Wind* (1936); (strongly suggested, *Margaret Mitchell's GWTW Letters*, Richard Harwell, ed. 1976); Susan Courtney, "Ripping the Portieres at the Seams" in *Hollywood and the American Historical Film*, Smyth, ed. (2012)

Seminar 5: Ethnicity, Urbanization, and the Gangster Genre

[Case Studies: *Scarface*, 1932 and 1983]

Reading: Jonathan Munby, *Public Enemies, Public Heroes* (1999); *The Production Code* (1934) in Leonard Leff and Jerold Simmons, eds., *The Dame in the Kimono* (1990)

Seminar 7: The Western

[Case Studies: *The Searchers*, 1956 and *Meek's Cutoff*, 2010]

Reading: Arthur Eckstein and Peter Lehman, eds. *The Searchers* (2004); Glenda Riley, *Women and Indians on the Frontier* (1984); Glenda Riley, *The Female Frontier* (1988)

Seminar 8: The Imperial Gaze

[Case Studies: *Around the World In 80 Days*, 1956, and *Lawrence of Arabia*, 1962]

Reading: Stephen C. Caton, *Lawrence of Arabia, A Film's Anthropology* (1999)

Seminar 9: Beyond 9 to 5: Working Women and Gray Flannel Suits

[Case Study: *North by Northwest*, 1959]

Reading: Steve Cohan, "The Spy in the Gray Flannel Suit," in *Masked Men* (1997), 1-33; suggested: William Whyte, *The Organization Man* (1956)

Seminar 10: Deconstructing Race and Gender? Postmodernism and Identity Politics

[Case Studies: *Ragtime*, 1981 and *Daughters of the Dust*, 1991]

Reading: E. L. Doctorow, *Ragtime* (1975); Linda Hutcheon, *A Poetics of Postmodernism* (1988), chapter 6; Julie Dash, *Daughters of the Dust: The Making of an African American Woman's Film* (1992); Katharina Gerund, "Encountering the Familiarity of a Foreign Culture: Julie Dash's Novel *Daughters of the Dust*," *Current Objectives of Postgraduate American Studies*, 11 (2010) [handout].