



CIEE Study Abroad

Course title:	Hollywood and Europe
Course number:	FILM 3003 CIEE
Programs offering course:	CIEE Summer Online
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2020

Course Description

This course offers insights into the relationships between Hollywood and Europe. The course adopts a revisionist perspective in so much as it seeks to challenge five ideas structuring understandings of the relations between the two. It begins by questioning the notion that Hollywood is strictly American, and therefore separate from Europe. Students then ask if Hollywood and European cinema are really the binary oppositions they tend to be imagined as being. From there, we consider whether Hollywood's engagement with Eastern Europe in the twentieth century supports its reputation as a staunchly anti-Communist institution. The course then focuses on whether Americanization is the most useful explanatory framework for understanding Hollywood's engagement with the continent: first by considering the concessions Hollywood has needed to make to this powerful profit center, then the extent to which Hollywood has used European subject matter to provoke introspection among American audiences. Students work through these topics by employing historical analysis and examining representative films such as *Ninotchka* (1939), *Roman Holiday* (1953), *Rocky IV* (1984), *Taken* (2008), and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* (2014).

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- analyze the dynamic and complex relationships that have existed, and which continue to exist, between Hollywood and Europe;
- discuss how the interaction of Hollywood and Europe can be conceptualized or theorized;
- critically discuss the ways in which deep-rooted contrasts between Hollywood and European Cinema have elided complex exchanges between the two;
- discuss ways in which European-based companies and European-based individuals have contributed to Hollywood and its output;
- illustrate the ambivalent relationships that characterized Hollywood's engagement with Communist Eastern Europe as both a partner and subject matter;
- analyze of the historically specific content-tailoring strategies that Hollywood has employed to make some of its output marketable and attractive to key European audiences, and to market its films to those audiences;
- critically discuss and illustrate how Hollywood has used images of Europe and Europeans to invite Americans to think about themselves and their nation.



Course Prerequisites

No formal prerequisites. Students from any academic background are welcomed on this course. Having an open mind to the ways cinema and audiovisual culture can be studied and understood are significantly more important determinants to getting the most out of this course than a background in Film Studies or related disciplines like Media Studies, Cultural Studies, and Communications. Because this course is open to students new to the topic, great efforts are made to familiarize newcomers to the study of motion pictures and their relevant contexts. Generally speaking, the course attempts to strike a balance between challenging non-Film Studies students and enabling Film Studies students to broaden their conceptual and historical understandings of the field; however, for obvious reasons, priority is given to the former.

CIEE Summer Online courses will involve asynchronous instruction. Instructors will apply theory and deliver the learning objectives using a rich array of online teaching methods and resources from CIEE host countries and communities. Full details, including dates and deadlines for assessments, will be provided in the final syllabus shortly before online learning begins.