



ENGL 390: Special Topics in Film - American Cinema of the 1970s

Professor Bruns / Fall 2019 / TR 1:40 - 2:55pm / RSS 251

One could say that Hollywood seventies cinema began 50 years ago, in 1969. That year, several important films such as *Midnight Cowboy* inaugurated a renaissance of smart, artistic filmmaking influenced by the European cinemas of France, Italy, and Sweden. The Golden Age of Hollywood finally had come to an end, with the "Studio System" that flourished in the 30s, 40s, and 50s dying a long and painful death. In its place emerged the "New Hollywood." This course will focus on the most important topics of one of the greatest decades in American cinema, such as the portrayals of race, gender, and class identity; generic transformations; and the rise of the Hollywood Blockbuster.

A list of possible films:

Midnight Cowboy (dir. John Schlesinger, 1969), ***Five Easy Pieces*** (dir. Robert Rafelson, 1970), ***Klute*** (dir. Alan J. Pakula, 1971), ***Two Lane Blacktop*** (dir. Monte Hellman, 1971), ***McCabe and Mrs. Miller*** (dir. Robert Altman, 1971), ***The Last Detail*** (dir. Hal Ashby, 1973), ***Chinatown*** (dir. Roman Polanski, 1974), ***Dog Day Afternoon*** (dir. Sidney Lumet, 1975), ***Jaws*** (dir. Steven Spielberg, 1975), ***Rocky*** (dir. John G. Avildsen, 1976), ***Taxi Driver*** (dir. Martin Scorsese, 1976), ***Close Encounters of the Third Kind*** (dir. Steven Spielberg, 1977), ***Saturday Night Fever*** (dir. John Badham, 1977), ***Killer of Sheep*** (dir. Charles Burnett, 1977), ***An Unmarried Woman*** (dir. Paul Mazursky, 1978), ***Apocalypse Now*** (dir. Francis Ford Coppola, 1979)