Course: 351
Title: Advanced Film: Latina/os in Film

Description: This section of Advanced Film will focus on Latina/o representation and self-representation in the U.S. film context, from the earliest silent Westerns to present-day Hollywood movies and independent productions. Images of Latina/os and other ethnic subjects have played an important though not always positive role in the evolution of American film. Latina/os are often represented as bandidos, badmen, dark ladies, members of a “social problem,” and Latin lovers, among a range of negative stereotypes. The representation of Latina/o identity is often an indicator of American concerns and anxieties, and it speaks multivocally and ambivalently.

At the same time, Latina/os have critiqued, resisted and taken control of the means of production and representation through the development of their own film traditions and their participation in the film industry. Thus, Latina/os have played a crucial role in defining their own identities in American society and culture. The course will also introduce students to the elements and methods of narrative film, and students will learn how film technique is used in the representation of race and ethnicity. We will examine both representation of Latina/os and representation by Latina/os, paying close attention to the differences “of” and “by” can make.


Proposed Readings: TBA