

Course Description

Course Unit

Topics on North-American Studies III: North-American Cinema on the Road

UC Code

MOD5.922091

ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

Level

MA

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S2

Faculty

José Duarte

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

From its earliest days, the road has been an icon of American culture, specifically in cinema. Its multiple meanings and paths translate into diverse cinematographic narratives that, studied in comparison, reveal an interesting map references and meanings. Using a comparative approach between films, this seminar is divided into five parts:

1. Genesis of the Road Movie: the Road in North American Culture;
2. Rebellion on the Road;
3. Growing up on the Road;

4. Collective Travels;
5. The Road has no End.

Grading and Assessment

At the end of the seminar, students are expected to have developed a broad understanding of the Road Movie genre, as well as its legacy, and the way in which it represents the tensions, anxieties and desires of North American culture over time. In addition, students should be able to mobilize resources to develop autonomous research and generate innovative ideas from the discussion carried out.

The assessment is based on the students' ability to discuss, organize ideas and their use of a conceptual approach to the themes worked in class. It is divided as follows:

- Presentation and discussion of the work proposal, along with an abstract submission of no more than 500 words (30%);
- Participation in seminars based on prior reading of the texts and discussion of the films in class (10%+10%);
- Final essay based on a film that reflects the seminar's theme (50%). Length: 3000-3500 words.

Bibliography

Archer, Neil (2016). *The Road Movie: In Search of Meaning*. Wallflower.

Cohan, Steven and Hark, Ina Rae (Eds.). (1991). *The Road Movie Book*. London and New York: Routledge.

Duarte, José and Corrigan Timothy (Eds.). (2018). *The Global Road Movie: Alternative Journeys Around the World*. Bristol: Intellect.

Ford, Stacilee and Slethaug, Gordon (Eds.). (2012). *Hit the Road Jack: Essays on the Culture of American Road*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Orgeron, Devin (2007). *Road Movies: From Muybridge and Melies to Lynch and Kiarostami*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Prerequisites (if applicable)

N/A