

Thank you so much for joining this class on Hollywood Xenophobia. I'm looking forward to being with you.

Feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions or comments.

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Hollywood Xenophobia Syllabus (spring 2023)

Course Description

Xenophobia is defined as the fear of strangers. American policy in relation to immigration has historically been marked by xenophobia, and popular culture, including Hollywood films, has reflected that attitude. In this course, we will look how mainstream Hollywood films have represented a range of Others—European immigrants, the Chinese, and Arabs—from the 1930s to the 2000s. The films we will screen and discuss reference issues such as race science, restrictive immigration policies, assimilation, whitewashed casting, and cultural appropriation. All of the films were widely released and capable of influencing large audiences.

Weeks 1–2: European immigrants and how they became white

Irish and Polish immigrants (week 1): *Black Legion* (1937; 83 mins)

Italians (week 2): *Scarface* (1932; 93 mins)

Weeks 3–5: The Chinese: from “Yellow Peril” to “Model Minority”

Week 3: *Mask of Fu Manchu* (1932; 68 mins)

Week 4: *M. Butterfly* (1993; 101 mins)

Week 5: *Enter the Dragon* (1973; 102 mins)

Weeks 6–8: Islamophobia

Week 6: *The Sheik* (1921; 86 mins)

Week 7: *Aladdin* (1992; 90 mins)

Week 8: *The Visitor* (2007; 104 mins)