
THE MOB AND THE MOVIES: A CINEMATIC HISTORY OF THE ALL-AMERICAN CRIMINAL

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Overview

From the Prohibition-era pre-code gangster movies of the 1930s through to the 1940s Film Noir productions to *The Godfather* (1972), Tarantino and beyond, the world of the American criminal has and always will be a violent and fascinating obsession of the big and small Hollywood studios. This course will explore that seedy underworld, examining the on and off-screen impact of real-life criminals like Al Capone and look at the way cinema has exploited and been exploited by organised crime and gangland operations. With plenty of clips and discussion we will trawl through the flea-pits and speakeasies in search of those illicit characters to take a closer look at moves like *Scarface* (1932), *Public Enemy* (1931), *White Heat* (1949), *Chinatown* (1974), *The French Connection* (1971), *Goodfellas* (1990) and many, many more.

Weekly Outline

Week 1: Pre-Code Criminals

The Public Enemy (1931) and *Scarface* (1932)

Week 2: Dames with a Past...

The Maltese Falcon (1941), *Double Indemnity* (1944) and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1946)

Week 3: ...Guys with No Future

Angels with Dirty Faces (1938) *Brute Force* (1947) and *White Heat* (1949)

Week 4: The McCarthy Era and the Mob

On the Waterfront (1954), *The Killing* (1956) and *Touch of Evil* (1958)

Week 5: The Bloody Crime Scenes and the Vietnam Era

The Naked Kiss (1964), *The Killers* (1964) and *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967)

Week 6: The Cynical 70s, Stripping Justice Bare

The French Connection (1971), *Dirty Harry* (1971) and *Chinatown* (1974)

Week 7: An Offer You Can't Refuse

The Godfather (1972), *The Godfather II* (1974) and *Scarface* (1983)

Week 8: Mann's World

Thief (1981), *Manhunter* (1986) and *Public Enemies* (2009)

Week 9: The 90s, Reservoir Dogs and Wise Guys

Goodfellas (1990), *Reservoir Dogs* (1992) and *True Romance* (1993)

Week 10: Crime and the Cohen Brothers

Miller's Crossing (1990), *Fargo* (1996) and *The Man Who Wasn't There* (2001)

Notes will be shared on the Notice Board after each session.

Suggested Reading List

Adler, T. (2007) *Hollywood and the Mob*, Bloomsbury Publishing, London

Cameron, I. (1975) *A Pictorial History of Crime Films*, Hamlyn Publishing Group LTD, London\

Cook, P. Editor. (1985) *The BFI Cinema Book*, Palgrave Macmillan, London

Cousins, M. (2004) *The Story of Film*, Pavilion Books, London

Doherty, T. (1999) *Pre-Code Hollywood*, Columbia University Press, New York

Hossent, H. (1974) *The Movie Treasury Gangster Movies*, Octopus Books, London

Hammond, L. (1974) *The Movie Treasury Thriller Movies*, Octopus Books, London

Vieira. M.A. (2019) *Forbidden Hollywood*, Running Press, New York