SOC205: Race and Cultural Relations

Films Eligible for Film Critique Assignment

Accessing the Films:

- Films marked with one asterisk (*) can be found on Films on Demand, located through the main library website and our library course guide.
- Films marked with two asterisks (**) are physically available through the library. Make sure you check on its availability and give yourself enough time – you may have to have it sent here from another campus.
- Suggestions for accessing films not available through the library: many of these films are available through services such as Netflix and Amazon video on demand.

Native Americans

- The Canary Effect: The Canary Effect takes an in depth look at the devastating effect that US policies have had on the indigenous people of America.
- Broken rainbow: Documentary chronicling the government relocation of 10,000 Navajo Indians in Arizona in the 1970s.

African-Americans

- **When the Levies Broke: An examination of the U.S. government’s role and its response to Hurricane Katrina. (note: this is long, consisting of 4 parts, each about 1 hour in length. But it’s interesting!)
- Four Little Girls: A documentary of the notorious racial terrorist bombing of an African American church during the Civil Rights Movement.
- Do the Right Thing: On the hottest day of the year on a street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, everyone’s hate and bigotry smolders and builds until it explodes into violence.
- 10,000 Black Men Named George: Union activist Asa Philip Randolph’s efforts to organize the black porters of the Pullman Rail Company in 1920s America.
- And the Children Shall Lead: Mississippi in the early ’60s is the setting for this story of a 12-year-old African-American girl who, along with her white friends, tries to ease increasing racial tensions.
• **Red Tails:** A crew of African American pilots in the Tuskegee training program, having faced segregation while kept mostly on the ground during World War II, are called into duty under the guidance of Col. A.J. Bullard.

• **42:** The life story of Jackie Robinson and his history-making signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers under the guidance of team executive Branch Rickey.

Asian-Americans

• *The Slanted Screen:* the Slanted Screen examines the portrayal Asian men in film and television, and how new filmmakers are now re-defining age-old stereotypes.

• **American Pastime:** is a 2007 film set in the Topaz War Relocation Center, a Utah prison camp which held thousands of people during the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. While the film is a dramatic narrative, it is based on true events and depicts life inside the internment camps, where baseball was one of the major diversions from the reality of the internees' lives. Location scenes were filmed in bleak, desolate land, not far from the site of the actual internment camp.

• **Only the Brave:** A searing portrait of war and prejudice, 'Only the Brave' takes you on a haunting journey into the hearts and minds of the forgotten heroes of WWII - the Japanese-American 100th/442nd

• **The Beautiful Country:** After reuniting with his mother in Ho Chi Minh City, a family tragedy causes Binh to flee from Viet Nam to America. Landing in New York, Binh begins a road trip to Texas, where his American father is said to live.

• **Gran Torino:** Disgruntled Korean War vet Walt Kowalski sets out to reform his neighbor, a young Hmong teenager, who tried to steal Kowalski's prized possession: his 1972 Gran Torino.

Latinos

• **Crossing Arizona:** A collection of personal accounts stemming from Arizona's illegal immigration crisis.

• **Wetbacks:** The Undocumented Documentary: The filmmakers follow Nayo and Milton (whose surnames are not given), migrants from Chinandega, Nicaragua as they cross through Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States in their attempt to reach Canada. Along the way, other migrants are interviewed as they are detained by Mexican authorities. Catholic human rights workers in Chiapas also offer their perspectives, particularly on the abuse of migrants by gangs such as the Mara Salvatrucha.

• **A Day Without a Mexican:** When a mysterious fog surrounds the boundaries of California, there is a communication breakdown and all the Mexicans disappear, affecting the economy and the state stops working missing the Mexican workers and dwellers.

• **My American Girls:** A Dominican Story: In vivid verite detail, MY AMERICAN GIRLS chronicles the joys and struggles over a year in the lives of the Ortiz family, first generation immigrants from the Dominican Republic.
• Sin Nombre: Honduran teenager Sayra reunites with her father, an opportunity for her to potentially realize her dream of a life in the U.S. Moving to Mexico is the first step in a fateful journey of unexpected events.

• Under the Same Moon: A young Mexican boy travels to the U.S. to find his mother after his grandmother passes away.

• Spanglish: A woman and her daughter emigrate from Mexico for a better life in America, where they start working for a family where the patriarch is a newly celebrated chef with an insecure wife.

White Ethnic Groups

• Angela’s Ashes: Based on the best selling autobiography by Irish expat Frank McCourt, Angela’s Ashes follows the experiences of young Frankie and his family as they try against all odds to escape the poverty endemic in the slums of pre-war Limerick. The film opens with the family in Brooklyn, but following the death of one of Frankie’s siblings, they return home, only to find the situation there even worse. Prejudice against Frankie’s Northern Irish father makes his search for employment in the Republic difficult despite his having fought for the IRA, and when he does find money, he spends the money on drink.

• Far and Away: A young man (Cruise) leaves Ireland with his landlord’s daughter (Kidman) after some trouble with her father, and they dream of owning land at the big giveaway in Oklahoma ca. 1893. When they get to the new land, they find jobs and begin saving money. The man becomes a local barehands boxer, and rides in glory until he is beaten, then his employers steal all the couple’s money and they must fight off starvation in the winter, and try to keep their dream of owning land alive.

• The Molly Maguires: Life is rough in the coal mines of 1876 Pennsylvania. A secret group of Irish emigrant miners, known as the Molly Maguires, fights against the cruelty of the mining company with sabotage and murder. A detective, also an Irish emigrant, is hired to infiltrate the group and report on its members. But on which side do his sympathies lie?

• Golden Door (“Nuovomondo”) - At the turn of the 20th century, the poor Mancuso family (headed by the widowed Salvatore, Vincenzo Amato), from Sicily, Italy, emigrates to the United States. They dream of the land of opportunity, where giant vegetables are grown, people swim in milk, and coins fall from the sky. Salvatore takes his family, as well as his old mother, Fortunata. At Ellis Island, the families undergo extensive and humiliating physical and psychological examinations and questioning. Pietro is about to be sent back for being mute, and Salvatore’s mother for insufficient intelligence.