

## 35A: Hollywood and American Culture



Instructor: Thomas Doherty

Block K: MW 2:00-3:20

This is an interdisciplinary course in Hollywood cinema and American culture that aims to do justice to both arenas. Students will learn the terms of filmic grammar, the meanings of visual style, and the contexts of Hollywood cinema from *The Birth of a Nation* (1915) to last weekend's top box office grosser. They will also master the major economic, social, and political realities that make up the American experience of the dominant medium of our time, the moving image, as purveyed by Hollywood.

### **Texts Include:**

*Movie-Made America* by Robert Sklar

*Pictures at a Revolution* by Mark Harris

*The American Cinema* by Andrew Sarris

Buster Keaton's *The General* (1926)

Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane* (1941)

John Ford's *The Searchers* (1956)

Arthur Penn's *Bonnie and Clyde* (1967)

Roman Polanski's *Chinatown* (1974)

For questions about AMST35a, contact Professor Doherty at:

[doherty@brandeis.edu](mailto:doherty@brandeis.edu) For general questions about majoring in American Studies, contact the Undergraduate Advising Head, Professor Stephen Whitfield, at:

[swhitfie@brandeis.edu](mailto:swhitfie@brandeis.edu)