

Recurrent Themes in Film: The Hollywood Indian in North American Film (WRIT 412)



Times/dates: 4:00-6:50pm Thursdays, Sept-Dec 2020

Instructor: Gregory Scofield

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CRN: 13072 [Click here for registration details](#)

Course description: No other image is as iconic and misrepresented as the Hollywood “Indian” in North American film. Spanning eight decades of film, this course will examine the portrayal of Native Americans by exploring the stereotypes and damaging depictions that range from violent barbarians to noble savages. Special attention will be given to the Hollywood invention of the “Indian”, and how these inaccurate portrayals have become ingrained in the North American consciousness through both classic Hollywood and revisionist westerns in film.

Proposed films:

- *Broken Arrow* (1950)
- *The Searchers* (1956)
- *Navajo Joe* (1966)
- *A Man Called Horse* (1970)
- *Little Big Man* (1970)
- *Soldier Blue* (1970)
- *One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest* (1975)
- *Windwalker* (1980)
- *Dances With Wolves* (1990)
- *The Lone Ranger* (2013)

Proposed text:

- *The Imaginary Indian* by Daniel Francis

Proposed assignments:

- Response papers (4)
- Essay (1)
- Final assessment