

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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### Sém. Ang. II/TC : Framing the American West : Aesthetic and Political Forms (2AN2114)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal M A - littératures</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5
<b>Pilier secondaire M A - littératures</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante

Boris Vejdosky, UNIL

#### Contenu

Situated at the intersection of narrative and cinematographic technique and cultural critique of American mythography, this class proposes to explore the crossing views of American and European writers and film directors on the American West. By crossing the perspectives of Western movie directors such as Raoul Walsh, John Ford, or Clint Eastwood on the one hand, and Sergio Leone, Eugenio Martin or Louis Malle on the other, we shall explore the aesthetization of the American West and the "guardian myths" that have emerged from it. We shall also see how those myths have been used and re-channeled by European directors who have participated in their own way in a contemporary redefinition of the American West. Such intersections should enable us to shed light on notions such as the frontier, the Wilderness, or the progress of civilization, and on the moral values attached to them. The class will also pose the question of the "reality" and the fiction of the American West in texts and films. Thus, it is the representation and the recreation of the West and its impending mythography that we shall look at from a multidisciplinary and international point of view to assess its significance in contemporary U.S. culture and its importance for current American studies.

#### Forme de l'évaluation

Class presentation (c. 20 minutes) (20%)  
Final essay (5000 words, +/- 10%, c. 12 pages; due January 10, 2021) (80%)

#### Documentation

##### Films:

John Ford, Stagecoach.  
— The Searchers.  
— Cheyenne Autumn.  
— The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence.  
Sergio Leone, Once Upon the Time in the West.  
David Miller, Lonely Are the Brave.  
John Huston, The Misfits.  
Jim Jarmush, Dead Man.  
Ang Lee, Brokeback Mountain.

##### Texts:

André Bazin, Qu'est-ce que le cinéma?  
Jean Baudrillard, Simulacre et Simulation.  
— America.  
John Buscom, Stagecoach.  
Ernst Cassirer, The Philosophy of Symbolic Forms.  
Christopher Columbus, Letters and Journals.  
Anne Cauquelin, L'invention du Paygag.  
Gilles Deleuze, L'image-mouvement.  
John Ford, Interviews.  
Erwin Panowsky, The Perspective as Symbolic Form.  
Robert Pippin, "What's a Western?"  
Mary Rowlandson, The Narrative of Captivity and Restoration of Mary Rowlandson.

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Frederick Jackson Turner, The Significance of the Frontier in American History.

A more extended bibliography and filmography to follow.

**Pré-requis**

BA in English

**Forme de l'enseignement**

Cours/séminaire

**Compétences transférables**

- Work in a team
- Communicate , process, manage, and generate information
- Manage a project