

Political Science 4000
The Witch Hunts in Hollywood
Spring 2015

Professor: Kevin V. Mulcahy
Office: 221 Stubbs Hall
MWF 12:00-8:00, T 1:30-6:00, TH 1:30-8:00
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Note: The use of laptops and cell phones in class is strictly prohibited. You will be emailed the power points before class. This will enable you to follow the lecture and make notes as appropriate.

Course Description

The anti-Communist witch hunts do not typically inspire calm reflection or detached observation. Over forty years have passed and controversy persists. Unanswered, and perhaps unanswerable, questions abound fueling the controversies over these matters of fact, however, are much larger issues of historical interpretation and national identity. These "Witch Hunts" raise troubling questions about the nature of Cold War America. Was the political repression of the period an unfortunate overreaction to a genuine threat or a deliberate attempt to suppress dissent?

There is no neutral ground, for avoiding these questions is in itself a political gesture; and even the most dispassionate observer is forced to take sides. This course will attempt to address such questions and evaluate the anti-communist campaign of the era. Inevitably, parallels may emerge between this era and post-9/11 America.

Required Texts

The following material constitutes the required readings for this course:

Ceplair, Larry	<i>The Inquisition in Hollywood: Politics in the Film Community 1930-1960</i>
Navasky, Victor S.	<i>Naming Names</i>
Radosh, Ronald	<i>Red Star Over Hollywood: The Film Colony's Long Romance with the Left</i>

Point Distribution

Film/Documentary Quizzes	100
Book Quizzes	75
Essays	225
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	500

Grading Scale

A: 448-500
B: 398-447
C: 348-397
D: 298-347
F: < 297

Class Participation/Attendance

Participation is expected and should be informed by the quality, as distinct from the quantity, of the discussion. Each student is expected to have completed the required readings and be prepared to discuss the issues raised if called upon. Since your presence in class is the *sine qua non* of participation, this grade will be determined as follows:

- 0-2 absences – permitted
- 3-4 absences – 200 points deducted from final grade
- 5+ absences – 500 points deducted from final grade

Note: Since this class only meets once a week, each class period is equivalent to one week of instruction.

Part II: Naming Names as Ritual

3/3 Class Six: Documentary: Elia Kazan and Arthur Miller

3/10 Class Seven: Film: On The Waterfront (108 Minutes)

Naming Names

3/17 Class Eight: Film: The Crucible (123 Minutes)

3/24 Class Nine: Documentary: Hollywoodism (96 Minutes)

Essay Due: Naming Names

Part III: McCarthyism

3/31 Class Ten: Film: The Front (95 Minutes)

4/7 No Class

4/14 Class Eleven: Film: Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg (92 Minutes)

Red Star Over Hollywood: The Film Colony's Long Romance with the Left

4/21 Class Twelve: Documentary: Point of Order (97 Minutes)

4/28 Class Thirteen Film: Good Night and Good Luck (93 Minutes)

Essay Due: Red Star Over Hollywood

5/5 Final Exam: 8:00 PM- 10:00 PM