

9/11 and American Film

Course Code: tba

The main aims of this course are:

- To examine a range of mainstream, independent and underground American films with a view to reading those films as representing a variety of responses to the experience and legacies of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001;
- To produce symptomatic readings of films and cycles of films that directly and indirectly address the terrorist attacks and their aftermath;
- To explore the tangled relationship between feature films and other cultural forms such as documentary film, photography and television news coverage.

This is a new course on a subject for which there is not yet a dedicated critical literature. Because of this what follows is a proposal of the likely ground we will cover but it is my hope that students taking the course will also have suggestions of possible films and topics and that these might also be examined and discussed.

The assessment for the course consists of a 4,000 word film note on a film of your choice. The film must be made after September 11, 2001 and you must relate your film, where relevant, to the films, issues and symptomatic readings made on the course. You will be expected to produce a plan for your film note and to make a short presentation on work in progress.

If you wish to begin viewing, try the following:

Buffalo Soldiers (2001), *9/11* (2002), *25th Hour* (2002), *The Guys* (2002), *Loose Change* (2005), *Fahrenheit 9/11* (2004), *War of the Worlds* (2005), *Good Night and Good Luck* (2005), *World Trade Center* (2006), *United '93* (2006), *Iraq in Fragments* (2006), *The Kingdom* (2007), *Rendition* (2007), *Taxi to the Dark Side* (2007), *Redacted* (2007), *Cloverfield* (2008), *Charlie Wilson's War* (2008), *Stop Loss* (2008), *Green Zone/Imperial Life in the Emerald City* (2009),

If you wish to start reading, try these:

Susan Faludi, *The Terror Dream: What 9/11 Revealed About America* (Atlantic Books, 2007).

Douglas Kellner, *9/11 and Terror War: The Dangers of the Bush Legacy* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003).

Daniel J. Sherman and Terry Nardin, *Terror, Culture, Politics: Rethinking 9/11* (Bloomington, IA: Indiana University Press, 2006).

Wheeler Winston Dixon, ed. *Film and Television After 9/11* (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2004).

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