Course instructor: PD Dr. Stefan Brandt, Guest Professor
Course number: VS 32 104
Room and Time: R 201, Tuesdays, 14-16 Uhr
Basic information: BA Vertiefungsmodul B, Vertiefungsseminar und PS im Grundstudium, 2 SWS, 7 CP

Short description: The third part of this seminar series concentrates on the period after 1980, paying special emphasis to the development of the following genres and production types: blockbusters (*Titanic*), comedies (*Legally Blonde*), action, adventure, and horror movies (*Saving Private Ryan, The Departed, Die Hard, The Silence of the Lambs*), dance films (*Flashdance*) animated films & comic adaptations (*Ratatouille, Batman*), independent film (*Pulp Fiction*), science-fiction movies (*Blade Runner*), politics & social criticism (*American Beauty, Rendition*), monumental film (*Troy*), and queer cinema (*Brokeback Mountain*). While discussing these films on an aesthetic level (examining their strategies of narration and cinematic construction), we will also attempt to situate them within the framework of political and historical events. Themes to be discussed include race, gender, sexuality, class, and (hyper)reality. Attendance of the first two parts of this course series is no precondition. The course will be held in English and German.

Reading and viewing material: The main films for this course will be made available at the Kennedy Institute Library. You may check these films out overnight (!) and have to return them by 10 a.m. on the next day! Alternative material can be found in Handapparat 28 (JFKI Library).

Credit requirements:
1. Regular attendance and lively participation in class discussions plus at least 9 entries in the discussion forum on Blackboard (https://lms.fu-berlin.de/webapps/login/) (1/3);
2. Oral presentation as part of an expert group (1/3);
3. Final paper (13-15 pages) on a course-related topic (1/3).

SYLLABUS

**Oct. 16** Introduction: The History of U.S. American Film, 1980 – Today
*Main text:* Wes D. Gehring, »Introduction«, in: *Handbook of American Film Genres* (available online)²
*Additional text:* Steve Neale, »Definitions of Genre«, in: *Genre and Hollywood*

**Oct. 23** Science Fiction & Fantasy
*Main film:* BLADE RUNNER (1982, dir. Ridley Scott)

**Oct. 30** Dance Films and Musicals
*Main film:* FLASHDANCE (1983, dir. Adrian Lyne)

² All texts for this seminar can be found on the Blackboard at https://lms.fu-berlin.de/webapps/login/
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