

The Early Hitchcock - The British Years

Dozent: PD Dr. Stefan L. Brandt, Gastprofessor

Angaben:

Hauptseminar, 2 SWS, ECTS-Studium, ECTS-Credits: 7; anmeldepflichtig über KOS

Zeit und Ort: Die 16:00 - 18:00, H-F 116; ab 03. April 2007

Studienfächer / Studienrichtungen:

ANG-M-EL3 ab 4 / LCMS-BA-M3.1/3.2 ab 4 / ENG-SI-B4 ab 4 / ENG-SII-B4 ab 4 / ENG-GHR5.1 ab 4 / ENG-GYM7.3 ab 4 2.1/ ENG-BK6.2 ab 4

Inhalt:

The seminar looks at the British films that Alfred Hitchcock directed between 1925 and 1938, among others *The Lodger* (1926), *Blackmail* (1929), *Murder!* (1930), *The Man Who Knew too Much* (1934), *The Thirty-Nine Steps* (1935), *Sabotage* (1936), *Young and Innocent* (1937), and *The Lady Vanishes* (1938). Our focus will be on the aesthetic strategies developed by Hitchcock in these early movies, particularly the construction of ›suspense‹ and the deployment of unique features like the ›MacGuffin.‹ In analyses of selected sequences, we will examine Hitchcock's visual techniques, the dramatic structure of his plots, and specific themes and motifs. What is it in the typical Hitchcock movie that fascinated – and continues to fascinate – audiences around the world? Plus: How does the “British” element (setting, humour, etc.) influence the structure and reception of Hitchcock's early movies? Some of the films discussed in class will be made available online. Others can be checked out from the university. The course will be held in English.

Credit requirements:

For 5 or 7 credit points: regular attendance and thoughtful participation in class (35%), an oral presentation as part of an expert group (25%), and a final paper (10-12 pgs. / 17-20 pgs.) (40%). There might be a few surprise quizzes on the readings to ensure that you keep up with the assignments. For 2 credit points: attendance & participation in class discussions (50%), oral presentation as part of an expert group (50%).

Deadline for Final Papers: Friday, July 27, 2007 There is no (!) extension of this deadline.

Syllabus:

03 April	Introduction
10 April	Easter Holiday Enjoy and relax!
17 April	The First ›Real‹ Hitchcock – Innocence, Lust, and Paranoia <i>The Lodger</i> (1926)
24 April	Hitchcock's ›Worst‹ Movie – Not a Black Comedy <i>Champagne</i> (1928)
01 May	Labor Day

No class!

- 08 May** **Hitchcock's First Talkie – Morals and Suspense**
Blackmail (1929)
- 15 May** **Hitchcock's First Courtroom Drama – Theatricality and Travesty**
Murder! (1930)
- 22 May** **Hitchcock's ›Most Autobiographical‹ Film – Marriage and Adventure**
Rich and Strange (1932)
- 29 May** **Pentecost Holiday**
Enjoy!
- 05 June** **Hitchcock's First ›Classical‹ Thriller – Politics, Spies, and Tough Women**
The Man Who Knew Too Much (1934)
- 12 June** **Hitchcock's Play with Surrealism – Conspiracies and Missing Fingers**
The Thirty-Nine Steps (1935)
- 19 June** **Hitchcock's Thriller Comedy – The Shadow of War**
Secret Agent (1935)
- 26 June** **Hitchcock's ›Greatest Mistake‹ – Shock, Explosions, and the Desire to Kill**
Sabotage (1936)
- 03 July** **Hitchcock's Road Movie – Raincoats, Matches, and White Negroes**
Young and Innocent (1937)
- 10 July** **Hitchcock's ›Locked Room‹ Mystery – Rabbits and Freudian Philosophy**
The Lady Vanishes (1938)