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| Veranstalter: | Marc-Liam Toolan |
| Thema: | British Film in Thatcher's Britain [AA-A2, ENG-6, AA-W, MUK-A2] |
| Art der Veranstaltung: | Seminar Ib |
| Veranstaltungsnummer: | 53-546 |
| Zeit: | 2st., Mo 12-14 (Sichttermin Mo 10-12) |
| Raum: | Medienzentrum (Kinosaal) |
| Beginn: | 4. April 2011 |

Kommentar zur Veranstaltung:

The period from 1980-2010 has been as tumultuous as any since the Acts of Union of 1800 created the United Kingdom. The imperial decline that began with the close of World War II was mirrored and exacerbated by the industrial decline that accelerated in the 1980s.

Economic globalization, resistance to European integration and neo-liberal ideology as expounded by Thatcher were some of the driving forces that shaped modern Britain and consequently, its film industry. The far-reaching changes enacted by successive Conservative and Labour governments have had profound impacts on both the physical and cultural landscapes of the UK.

In the past thirty years Britain has moved from an age of austerity to one of conspicuous extravagance and back again. From the "greed is good" mantra of the 80s to the Cool Britannia of Blair's 90s and on to the new student radicalism of 2010, Thatcher's impact can be felt more keenly than at any point since her pomp.

In a society that is particularly sensitive to, and protective of its class system, Thatcher's rise from Greengrocer's daughter to PM suggested that the UK was on its way to becoming less class-ridden and more meritocratic. However, with rising inequality and a coalition government led by public school elites, issues of class seem more relevant than ever.

This seminar shall trace the political, social and economic changes that have shaped modern Britain (1980-2010) as seen through the lens of British film-makers; from cutting social commentary to frothy Hollywoodesque comedy. Focusing on the films of auteurs as diverse as Ken Loach and Richard Curtis, students will become more familiar with all aspects of modern British culture, while an emphasis will be placed on representations of class.

Students will be provided with a list of films from the period, and will be required to work in groups in order to prepare presentations on a particular film. These group presentations will take place in advance of the film screenings, to be attended by all students. Each group will locate their chosen film in its appropriate historical and cultural context, and will be encouraged to examine the cultural impact that each film has had on our understanding of British identity.

50 percent of the final mark will be based on the group presentation (90 minutes) while an end of semester essay will form the basis of the remaining 50 percent.

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| Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit: | Nach Vereinbarung |
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