Reel History

Course prefix: HTS

Course number: 2085

Section: A

CRN (you may add up to five):
34960

Instructor First Name: Sanyu

Instructor Last Name: Mulira

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Students will evaluate films as sources for specific historical events by viewing films, reading historical documents, and applying critical analysis to written assignments and class discussions. In this course, students will consider how films portray moments of resistance and rebellion in African Diasporic History.

Course learning outcomes:

- Upon completing this course, students should be able to:
- Recognize cultural history and cinema as an interpretive account of the human past
- Describe past events from multiple perspectives.
- Explicate how feature and documentary films inform our collective understanding of the past
- Speak and write fluently about selected narrative films and documentaries using tools of formal, thematic, and historical analysis.

Required course materials:

- Nella Larsen. *Passing.* (1929)

Grading policy:

All assignments must be submitted on time and uploaded to the Canvas submission portal by the indicated deadline (usually 11:59 pm of the due date). Late work will **only** be accepted for credit with a documented excuse. If students have accommodations, make sure that the terms are clearly communicated to the Professor through Disability Services.

- 4 Discussion Posts (15 points each = 60 points)
- Group Presentation (50 points)
- Midterm Book & Film Review (70 points)
- Final Paper (100 points)
- Attendance & Participation (20 points)

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59 and below = F

Attendance policy:

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Points will be lost if students are consistently late and/or absent without valid documentation. Students are expected to be active participants in the course. Arriving ready to discuss the reading material is vital to a lively class. If students experience unforeseen circumstances that may affect their attendance, please get in touch with the Dean of Students for assistance.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

The Academic Honor Code is a student initiative that became an official Institute policy in 1996. The Academic Honor Code aims to increase academic integrity and strengthen trust in the Georgia Tech community. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

AI Statement:

Per GaTech's Honor Code, students are forbidden from submitting work generated by an AI program as their own. Generative AI cannot be used or consulted for assignments; all work must be your own. The use of Generative AI tools for any part of your work will be treated as plagiarism and a violation of academic honesty. You may use grammar aids (e.g., Grammarly, spell check).

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential

knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content,

and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how

historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or

change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the

following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion