LITS 2406: Nollywood: Genres of African Film

Lecturer in Charge: Dr. Connor Ryan

Room: 51 (New Humanities Building)

This course offers the chance to explore Nollywood through its genres, and to interrogate genre from the perspective of an African film culture. Genres are essentially a way to group films according to shared formal conventions. Film genres emerge and change with the growth of cinema, and come to be recognizable to audiences as distinct “types,” “categories,” or “movements” within film. Students will view comedies, romantic comedies, crime films, melodramas, and films noirs made by Nollywood filmmakers for popular audiences across Africa and the African diaspora, including the Caribbean. This course will examine this range of genres to better understand how they are inflected by the cinema in which they develop and evolve, and how they reflect the concerns, anxieties, or desires of the societies in which they circulate.

Level: II
Credits: 3
Prerequisite: At least 15 level 1 credits
Instruction: 2 lectures, 1 tutorial per week
Evaluation: Final Essay Proposal with Outline (500 words, approx.) 15%
One Final Essay (2000 words, approx.) 40%
Film Viewing Journal (five entries at 200 words each) 20%
One Tutorial Presentation 25%

Required Reading:

Highly Recommended Reading:
Recommended Reading: