

Portraits of America

DEMOCRACY ON FILM

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Module 1: The Immigrant Experience

- Introductory Lesson: *The Immigrant* (1917, d. Charlie Chaplin)
- Chapter 1: *America, America* (1963, d. Elia Kazan)
- Chapter 2: *The Godfather, Part II* (1974, d. Francis Ford Coppola)
- Chapter 3: *El Norte* (1983, d. Gregory Nava)
- Chapter 4: *The Namesake* (2006, d. Mira Nair)
- Chapter 5: The Backlash Against Immigration, featuring scenes from *Gangs of New York* (2002, d. Martin Scorsese) and *Hester Street* (1975, d. Joan Micklin Silver)

Module 2: The American Laborer

- Introductory Lesson: The Social Drama and the Child Labor Controversy
- Chapter 1: The Historical Drama – *Matewan* (1987, d. John Sayles)
- Chapter 2: *Harlan County U.S.A.* (1976, d. Barbara Kopple)
- Chapter 3: *At the River I Stand* (1993, dirs. David Appleby, Allison Graham and Steven Ross)
- Chapter 4: *Salt of the Earth* (1954, d. Herbert J. Biberman)
- Chapter 5: *Norma Rae* (1979, d. Martin Ritt)

Module 3: Civil Rights

- Introductory Lesson: The Other America
- Chapter 1: Empathy, Movies, and the Common Good, featuring scenes from *The Iron Giant* (1999, d. Brad Bird) and *Lincoln* (2012, d. Steven Spielberg)
- Chapter 2: *King: A Filmed Record...Montgomery to Memphis* (1970, conceived and created by Ely Landau; guest appearances filmed by Sidney Lumet and Joseph L. Mankiewicz)
- Chapter 3: *Intruder in the Dust* (1949, d. Clarence Brown)
- Chapter 4: *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984, d. Robert Epstein)
- Chapter 5: *Smoke Signals* (1998, d. Chris Eyre)

Module 4: The American Woman – IN DEVELOPMENT

- Introductory Lesson: Ways of Seeing Women
- Chapter 1: Through a Woman's Lens: Directors Lois Weber (focusing on *Suspense*, 1913 and *Where Are My Children?*, 1916), Dorothy Arzner (*Dance, Girl, Dance*, 1940), and Ida Lupino (*The Hitch-Hiker*, 1953)
- Chapter 2: *Imitation of Life* (1934, d. John M. Stahl)
- Chapter 3: *Woman of the Year* (1942, d. George Stevens)
- Chapter 4: *Alien* (1979, d. Ridley Scott)
- Chapter 5: *The Age of Innocence* (1993, d. Martin Scorsese)

CURRICULUM OUTLINE

(continued)

Module 5: Politicians and Demagogues – IN DEVELOPMENT

Introductory Lesson: Checks and Balances

Chapter 1: *Gabriel Over the White House* (1933, d. Gregory La Cava)

Chapter 2: *A Lion Is in the Streets* (1953, d. Raoul Walsh)

Chapter 3: *Advise and Consent* (1962, d. Otto Preminger)

Chapter 4: *A Face in the Crowd* (1957, d. Elia Kazan)

Module 6: Soldiers and Patriots – IN DEVELOPMENT

Introductory Lesson: Movies and Homefront Morale

Chapter 1: *Sergeant York* (1941, d. Howard Hawks)

Chapter 2: Private Snafu's Private War—three Snafu Shorts from WWII

Chapter 3: *Three Came Home* (1950, d. Jean Negulesco)

Chapter 4: *Glory* (1989, d. Edward Zwick)

Chapter 5: *Saving Private Ryan* (1998, d. Steven Spielberg)

Module 7: The Press – IN DEVELOPMENT

Introductory Lesson: Degrees of Truth

Chapter 1: *Meet John Doe* (1941, d. Frank Capra)

Chapter 2: *All the President's Men* (1976, d. Alan J. Pakula)

Chapter 3: *Good Night, and Good Luck* (2005, d. George Clooney)

Chapter 4: *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006, d. Davis Guggenheim)

Chapter 5: *Ace in the Hole* (1951, d. Billy Wilder)

Module 8: The Auteurs – IN DEVELOPMENT

Introductory Lesson: Film as an Art Form

Chapter 1: *Modern Times* (1936, d. Charlie Chaplin)

Chapter 2: *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940, d. John Ford)

Chapter 3: *Citizen Kane* (1941, d. Orson Welles)

Chapter 4: *An American in Paris* (1951, d. Vincente Minnelli)

Chapter 5: *The Aviator* (2004, d. Martin Scorsese)