

# HollywoodX: History, Industry, and Art

## Learning Goals

- Learn about the impact of media technology on the art and business of Hollywood
- Acquire tools for analyzing a film
- Learn about the political role of films in American and world culture
- Learn about different media careers
- Learn about legal changes that have shaped Hollywood
- Engage with a global community of learners with a wide range of experiences with media

## Course Requirements

- Self-paced 8 units
- 3-4 hours a week
- Grading policy: 50% score or more required on all quizzes to receive a certificate
- No prerequisites
- Discussion forums are optional

## Academic Policy & Discussion Forum Etiquette

- Please see the [EdX Privacy Policy and Code of Conduct](#)

## Course Outline

### 1. Before Hollywood

- 1.1 The Film Spectator is Born, or How is a Movie Theater Like a Train
- 1.2 Edison and the Invention of Film
- 1.3 Early Film: Where? What? Who? Why?
- 1.4 The Edison Trust and the Independents
- 1.5 Piracy, Copyright, and the *Ben-Hur* Case

### 2. The Studio System

- 2.1 Going West and Getting Organized
- 2.2 The Star System
- 2.3 The Genre System
- 2.4 Clip Day: Meet Me in St. Louis and The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence

### 3. Sound and the Production Code

- 3.1 Sound and the Challenges of New Technology
- 3.2 Sound Style
- 3.3 The Road to the Production Code
- 3.4 The Production Code in Action

#### **4. Hollywood at War**

4.1 Hollywood Goes to War

4.2 War Films

4.3 Wartime Government Agencies

4.4 Clip Day: *Casablanca*

#### **5. The Blacklist and Cold War**

5.1 HUAC in Hollywood

5.2 The Hollywood Ten and the Blacklist

5.3 Film Responses to the Blacklist

5.4 Cold War Genres: Film Noir

#### **6. The New Hollywood**

6.1 The Threat and Promise of Television

6.2 Auteurs and the Counterculture

6.3 The Rise of the Blockbuster

#### **7. Home Video and Independent Film**

7.1 Home Video

#### **8. Digital Cinema and the Internet**

8.1 Computer Generated Images (CGI)

8.2 Hollywood's Internet

### **Instructor**



**Peter Decherney** is Professor of Cinema and Media Studies and English at the University of Pennsylvania. He holds a secondary appointment at the Annenberg School for Communication and an affiliation with the Center for Technology, Innovation, and Competition at Penn Law School. He is the author or editor of five books including *Hollywood's Copyright Wars: From Edison to the Internet* and *Hollywood: A Very Short Introduction*. Prof. Decherney has been an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Scholar, a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, and a U.S. State Department Arts Envoy to Myanmar. Subsequently, he returned to Myanmar to direct the short documentary, *Filmmaking for Democracy in Myanmar*. He is a regular contributor to *Forbes.com*, and he has won multiple teaching awards. More at [decherney.org](http://decherney.org).

*Instructor and TAs will respond occasionally to forums, answer questions, and do occasional live video sessions.*