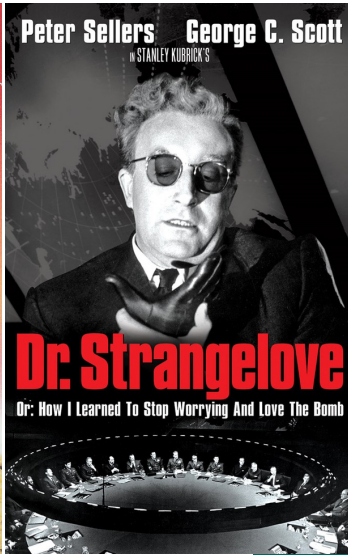


Björklunden Seminars

“Vacation with a purpose”

OCT. 20-25, 2024 AT BJÖRKLUNDEN



Postwar Hollywood Masculinity and its Critics

Course Description

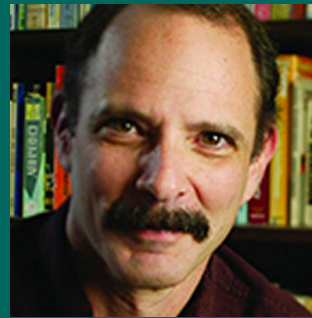
Hollywood films both mirror and help fashion the gender norms at various times in American history. This seminar will focus on how masculinity was constructed in five films between World War II and the 1980s.

We will begin with ‘classical masculinity’ as represented by Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca* (1942) and John Wayne in *Red River* (1948). Next, we’ll turn to two countercultural critiques of the classical model: *Dr. Strangelove* (1964) and *Chinatown* (1974).

We’ll close with the 1988 blockbuster, *Die Hard*, which offers a Reagan era variation on the Bogart/Wayne model.

[Register Here>>](#)

Instructor



Paul Cohen

Cohen is a professor emeritus in history and Patricia Hamar Boldt professor of liberal studies at Lawrence University, where he taught for 37 years. He specializes in Modern European history but has also taught courses on film and history.

Between 1996 and 1998, he was Director of Lawrence’s Freshman Studies Program (currently ‘First Year Studies’), which introduces students to the liberal arts. He helped oversee that program’s transition from its great-works-of-the-West origins in 1945 to its current multi-civilizational and multidisciplinary orientation. While he is the author of two books on the intellectual history of modern France, Cohen considers himself first and foremost a teacher.

In 1999, Lawrence awarded him with the Lawrence University Freshman Studies Award, and in 2008 with the Lawrence University Excellence in Teaching Award. “Teaching,” he writes, “has amounted to a calling more than an occupation for me. Being a spur to student growth has been the greatest joy of my career. That, I like to think, more so than the mastery of a field of study or the preparation for a career, is what characterizes a Lawrence education at its best.”