

HST 202: History of the United States W14 (Escobar Meta 31101 31100)

Home ► My courses ► Winter 2014 ► HST 202 W14 (Escobar Meta 31101 31100) ► January 27 -

February 2 ► Forum 2 ► Hollywood History & Mythology

Search forums

Forum 2

Display replies in nested form Move this discussion to ...

< Previous (Editorial Cartoons)

(Hollywood History & My...) Next >



Hollywood History & Mythology

by Joe Escobar - Friday, January 24, 2014, 10:02 PM

This forum thread is for Hollywood History & Mythology posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the questions in your posts.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post.

To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Hollywood History & Mythology

Sum of ratings: -

Edit | Delete | Reply



Mythos & Logos

by Claire Steinbis - Saturday, January 25, 2014, 4:42 PM

Personal after watching both films I feel ashamed.. Our History should be taught exactly how it happened. There shouldn't be any tip toeing around the subject, it's real, it happened. It should be taught about correctly. I think sugar coating it, is a way for most people to feel like nothing bad actually happened. Like our race couldn't do such horrible things to theirs without a reason. I think after watching the Under Ground Railroad and learning about what actually happened it sucks to be quite honest. I would have much rather known the truth then had some fake tale made up about it. History has always been a favored subject of mine, and when I say History I mean the real thing not something Hollywood tried to make into a grammy award winning film..

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Be mindful and search for the facts

by Bryan Sanders - Monday, January 27, 2014, 7:35 PM

History should be taught as it happened. Both the good and the bad need to be reported so we can know what has gone before and not make the same mistakes.

However, if there's something I've learned from this class, it's that people are driven to serve their self interest to varying degrees. In Hollywood, people are driven to pursue a self interest that involves money making, and the historical truth normally doesn't sell as well as exaggerated truth. Presentism gets intertwined into the mix, meaning that anything depicted on the big screen will reflect the morals of the now rather than the morals of that time period.

The Amistad is case in point. Calling it a turning point sells better than just calling it another court case. Romanticizing the past here with great actors sells tickets, but as we see it fails to grasp fully the atmosphere of that era.

If there's one good thing that can be learned from this, it's that you never take anything for face value and look deeper for yourself.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Be mindful and search for the facts

by Linh Tran - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 9:14 PM

I would have to agree with Bryan that fictive movies would be in a more interest of people when it comes to entertainment. If talking about entertainment, isn't it what Hollywood all about? It is a business we are talking about. Moviemakers or businessmen, in this case, obviously would do what is best for their benefit – selling tickets. People should be knowledgably aware themselves of the kind of movies they watch, particularly Hollywood movies, rather than criticize how those movies “trick” us historically when their purpose is much more likely for amusement than truth. Turning the situation around, in class we talked about the movie that was censured to be focus "too much" on accuracy and failed to get its audiences entertained. People would spend more time talking about how boring it is than actually praise it for telling us the truth. Are we criticizing too much either way? For me, I have absolutely no problem with the entertainment of Hollywood movies. In short, Hollywood is Hollywood; historical truth is history documentary. There should be no confusion.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Money can change History

by Kevin Wright - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 12:44 AM

it's interesting to see how much influence money has on the integrity of a movie historical accuracy. I'm not surprised that this movie had many historical inaccuracy's simply because it was a blockbuster movie. The main purpose was to make money regardless of how accurate it was. However, there are blockbuster movies which are very historically

accurate. 12 years A slave is one where the director specifically chose to accurately tell the story.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Money can change History

by Matthew Rice - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 7:27 AM

i agree with you. another good example of money changing history look at the USSR, Stalin's USSR ended up spending a lot of money suppressing there history, or currently in Germany towns are pay a lot of money to not have there kids tough that the Holocaust really happened. we have been doing it for years. they say History is Written by the winners.lately it is becoming more appernt that who ever has the bigger pocket book writes history.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Money can change History

by Amanda Hough - Friday, January 31, 2014, 11:21 PM

You make a very good point here! There are a lot of other aspects that can be brought up in this forum discussion. Not only historical accuracy, but the issues involving the making of historical films. The more 'Hollywood' kinds of films are more about box office income, rather than documentaries that are generally more fact-oriented.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Money can change History

by Austin McQuaw - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 11:25 PM

Yeah, the exaggerations and inaccuracies are unfortunate when you view such movies with the expectation to learn factual history. However, it is not usually the goal of Hollywood to display integrity in teaching history, but it is firstly to make money. Of course, a film is an easy place for someone with power over the production to push an agenda of their own. That is unfortunate also. Regardless of the inaccuracies of a movie, it may still plant a seed in the viewers mind, which motivates them to further their knowledge on the given subject. There can be positive takeaways from these movies so long as the viewer acts responsibly.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



nothing new

by Matthew Rice - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 7:23 AM

for years i have known about how Hollywood takes history and changes it to is own

devices. they constantly change people and events and other things around to make it more entertaining for the general people. sadly that means changing things around and making things politically correct. a great example i can think is the movie called The Last Samurai. they made a lot of changes. changing names and events, putting people that were never there in there, and changing the whole war into something else. this the Amistda i watched the movie in my Jr. year of High school and being a history person i could tell automatically that they had again taken there liberty with it as well. one some of the movies though they do put like bit and pieces of the truth in there. like for instance when it showed the slave on the ship packed into the under-hold, that was how they really made them travel. many slaves died just traveling to the Americas. another movie that Hollywood has taken liberty on is the new movie 47 Roelin. which was supposed to be based off of a old Japanese folk tale about how the samurai where loyal to the end for there dead Daimio. but Hollywood changed it so much that i still cant even get all the way though the trailer. basically if you want to watch something about history that should correct, watch a documentary.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Historical Innacuracies



by Karlie Edwards - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 9:11 AM

After viewing the videos and reading the articles I am certain that at some point all students have been fed bits and pieces of the truth, when learning our history, but not the complete truth as we should know and understand it. It is unfair that we see history twisted to glorify people from the past and not reveal what truly happened. Even if the truth is ugly, we deserve to know the mistakes of our ancestors, so we can see how far we have really come in our society today and recognize the true heroes and victims from the past. I feel that by changing these facts a little, it has helped Americans feel better about the horrid events that took place and ease our guilt in humanity. In the article about Amistad and in the video about the Underground railroad, points are made to show that white people from that time were put on a much higher pedestal than they deserved. The film Amistad centered around the white people in the movie and their growth, and strayed away from the story of the slaves and the real history of Amistad. In the underground railroad video the point is made that most people working and helping in the underground railroad were black and very few white. That came as a surprise to me. All of this information just makes me question the history I have learned and what other false information we have received throughout our years of schooling.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Continue to Mythos & Logos



by Claire Steinbis - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 10:40 AM

To add on to what I was saying earlier after what we went over in class we can also add how extreme most Hollywood documentary's go with how slavery was portrayed. Such as, scarred backs and the bell collars. Like you said in class not all slaves were beat or forced to wear collars, not all committed suicide either.

Just shows how far Hollywood was willing to go with these history documents to show or portray what they thought would get the point across more.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Continue to Mythos & Logos

by Matthew Rice - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 10:56 AM

i think that it isn't just money that is making people change our history, but also political agendas. everything that we are feed, the news, that new papers, social media sites, and so on, they all give a political agenda that they are trying to push. they also do it a lot in movies and documentary.

i think these two quotes say it all in my mind.

"He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future." Adolf Hitler

"All Propaganda has to be popular and has to accommodate itself to the comprehension of the least intelligent of those whom it seeks to reach." Adolf Hitler

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Continue to Mythos & Logos

by kazu Inaba - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 3:54 PM

I totally agree with you. Nowadays, everything tends to make money even though they change the truth. Before I took the history class, I had thought that it was fine, but now I feel that I want to know the truth. In my opinion, when people tell a story, people should tell the truth. That might be helpful to get knowledge of history and moral.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



The Importance of Knowing the Truth and how Hollywood can Help us Attain this

by Louis Gambia - Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 3:12 PM

While it does bother me that Hollywood often exaggerates and inaccurately portrays historical events, in some ways, I think this can be beneficial to all of those who care to bother with these movies. Don't get me wrong, I understand that it is important that students are taught the truth of the significant historical event that they are learning about, but these historically inaccurate films can often spark an interest in someone, prompting them to further delve into the subject, which in turn can give them a firmer grasp on what actually happened. I've always believed that one can learn something more effectively by attempting to learn it themselves, rather than being forced to learn it. Although it does anger me to some extent that hollywood often alters these historic events by making the subject more appealing, I think that it is essential that we learn the exact truth of whatever historical

event, so that we learn from our mistakes. Sometimes the best way to make this happen is by sparking an interest in an individual so they can learn it for themselves.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: The Importance of Knowing the Truth and how Hollywood can Help us Attain this

by Blake Allen - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 12:15 PM

I agree with this quite a bit. I like your allusion to being able to research more about the subject, because I've done that on quite a few occasions. Living in the age that we do now, it makes it much easier to do that research, so I'd say it was more important for movies to be completely accurate before the internet was around.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Hollywood, not a Teacher

by Kira Iantorno - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 10:21 PM

I completely agree with you on this, while they are making movies about historical moments, I do not believe that they should have to adhere to exact facts. One those would be awful boring movies (Like the movie Alamo). Two people should not expect Hollywood to be historians, their jobs are to entertain and while I appreciate the movies that do both, I would hope people do not take information to heart and believe everything they see. Read books and watch documentary's by people that have educated themselves for years on a topic. Not all medias are meant to be education ask fox news. The point you made that the movie at least ignites the interest is all we can take from some of these movies. The part of the article I liked the most was "If the authors of the study guide really want to promote an understanding of slavery, they should direct students not to this highly flawed film, but to the local library."

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by Claire Steinbis - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 8:42 AM

I agree with the above that yes, hollywood can sometimes make a historically accurate movie.. Depending on what part of history they are trying to make a film about. I'm sure the movie Titanic was as close to the real thing as they could get.... BUT there is something always missing from the real story and unfortunately there is nothing we can do about that.

Sum of ratings: (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

Hollywood History & Mythology

by Courtney Reeser - Friday, January 31, 2014, 9:46 AM



I agree with everybody as well. Yes Hollywood needs to get their money and good on them for trying to portray history and educate some people. But at the same time bad on them for educating the wrong information. I think some people are really big movie buffs, and they may start believing what they see in a Hollywood film, and think that that is the true history and may not be educated enough to know other wise. When watching Lincoln they actually minimized the role of African Americans in the abolition of slavery. These minor details they leave out may make the Hollywood film more compelling but I truly feel that they are confusing the viewers who may believe that these movies portray historical facts.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Hollywood's Persepctive

by Maisie Smith - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 2:26 PM

After watching this trailer, I realized just how far people will stretch the truth just to make money or win an award. Although I haven't seen the full movie, this trailer didn't show the gruesome details that are the truth. They never mentioned that the slaves were abducted or that they killed the plantation owners to regain control of the ship and go back to their homeland. They also neglected to mention that the slaves were then imprisoned even after the murder charges were dropped and that some of them died while in prison. Hollywood "history" movies are not accurate, which is not only disrespecting our history, but it's giving viewers the wrong impression. People need to know the truth to fully understand the issues that went on a few hundred years ago because many of those problems are still encountered to this day, and the fact that people rely on these movies for their information is appalling.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by Anthony Cozad - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 8:11 PM

I feel that history isn't always correct, do to what they show us in films. After watching both videos I feel that things are always far worse then what the try to show us in the movies. The time was different and full of hate and evil, over color because they were viewed as less then white simply stating that they were treated very poorly. The underground railroad is a good story of hope and freedom but whats left out was how bad it really could get in there everyday lives just trying to get away from the harsh realty's,. of what they had to go through, to barley survive. also there can be no evidence of what could have happened because none of us were there to see it for ourselves.with history you have to just take what has been wrote down and find a way bring it back to life, with your own point of view of how you think it might have taken place.With Hollywood they always have to add things for excitement or it wouldn't want to be watched when the events might have not happened as they say they have.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by kazu Inaba - Wednesday, January 29, 2014, 8:34 PM

After watching the first video, I thought exactly what Eric Foner wrote. It is a movie, so that I know director wants to emphasize each character, but I felt that it was emphasizing the heroism of who survived, especially in the end of the trailer. In my opinion, History should be taught as it happens. we should know what happen at the time, then we can judge good or bad. On the other hands, Hollywood has to make money because they spent a lot of money for that so even if they fix some truth, they want to make it look more exciting. So I feel like the one of the biggest problems is that this movie are used for education. Thus, we probably set apart between movie and historical truth.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by Louis Gambee - Thursday, January 30, 2014, 8:50 AM

There is no question that we ought to be taught exactly how history actually happened. By construing the facts, we often miss some of the most important details, which can possibly cause us to repeat our same mistakes. To obtain the truth, I feel that it is necessary for us to attempt to learn for ourselves in regards to what actually happened. Hollywood movies can help us do this by introducing us to an event that sparks an interest in us. I think that most people know to not take most movies literally for every event that happens. Instead, I feel that many are further intrigued about the portrayed historical event, which can eventually lead to one researching and finding out more about it on their own.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by Karlie Edwards - Thursday, January 30, 2014, 12:32 PM

I strongly agree with this, many movies can reveal a historical event that we may take an interest in, and it's our responsibility to learn for ourselves and further our education by looking into these events on our own time if we want to get accurate information. We can't expect everything to match up and all of the information recorded from our history to be true, but by cross checking everything we can get as close to the truth as possible rather than relying on movies.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply

False history lessons  



by Amanda Hough - Friday, January 31, 2014, 10:44 PM

I am very concerned with being taught falsehoods of historical events. I feel as though I have been cheated after reading Foner's review of the *Amistad* film, even though I have not seen the movie myself. What is the point in taking a history class, or furthermore, teaching American history, if the information provided is inaccurate? Although this does anger me and the historians involved in this weeks forum, I can't help but assume that we can't expect much less from Hollywood. With that said, I also feel that my assumptions must not be far fetched being a young adult, myself. Obviously the entire institution of slavery, including the *Amistad* and the Underground Railroad, is a large and important chunk of American history.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: False history lessons



by Blake Allen - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 12:19 PM

I'm not sure I completely agree with you when you referred to a history class being inaccurate. I wouldn't stretch it so far as to blame the instructors for a historically inaccurate movie, as the teachers can still explain the true story if they were to show the movie in their class.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



My personal takeaway



by Bryan Sanders - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 7:15 PM

History classes can still be valuable for learning history. Inaccurate information can still be shown in class for academic exercises, like the one we are in now. Learning to decipher the facts and fiction in presentations like the *Amistad* film can help to tell the real truth on the subject.

That said, my understanding of the Underground Railroad has changed. It does make sense that most of the members of the Railroad were Black, not just because of Harriet Tubman but also because Blacks whether free or slave could empathize better with the new runaways. They all shared a common interest.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Hollywood History & Mythology: Its No Mystery



by Robert Johnson - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 12:45 AM

This topic has come up many times in conversation with people before. Mostly it seems, that people agree with the majority of opinions in this forum.

Hollywood is about selling entertainment more so than telling the whole entire real truth

about a story including those about history. Movie producers like to attach the words " True Story " to a movie, its another selling point they can use to help draw an audience. But they produce movies to sell, and should be taken with a grain of salt. I don't expect total accuracy in movies. Its no mystery, everyone knows that anything can happen in the movies.

I think its fun pointing out details that can be proven wrong in a movie that's suppose to be a true story. I look forward to maybe being able to point a few things out in movies or documentaries about early American history. From the colonies to the early 19th century now so far, I understand some things thanks to this class. I am ready to watch them now.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Okay with Some, Not with Others

by Blake Allen - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 12:12 PM

When it comes to historical accuracy in movies, I have mixed feelings about them. As someone who enjoys movies quite a bit, especially ones that are based or loosely based on historical events, I understand the need to bend the story or mold it to make it more entertaining. I personally don't agree with it, but I understand it. In my opinion, it's acceptable to leave certain events out of a movie, but adding events or changing the story is a little misleading. I appreciate historical accuracy, but I also understand Hollywood has to make money on their movies, and the way to do that sometimes includes historical modification.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

Show parent | Edit | Split | Delete | Reply



Re: Hollywood History & Mythology

by Scarlett White - Saturday, February 1, 2014, 10:59 PM

Prior to this class, I hadn't watched nor seen the trailer to Amistad but a few things caught my eye right away. In the beginning of the trailer there is an explanation, that is purely meant to catch the audiences eye. One of the things that is stated is, "But there are moments in history." This is very concerning, especially for people that know seldom about the underground railroad and the true events that occurred. It leads to a trail of "untrue events" that are spread by the people who watch the movie, even if they might know some things about the railroad, movies can impact peoples opinions on the matter.

Eric Foner points out in his article *The Amistad Case in Fact and Film*, that the main characters in the film are white. When people watch movies, they tend to find the characters that can relate most to them, and if there is a predominantly white audience, it could be that they lean towards the swayed opinion that the movie displays, whether or not they realize it. Obviously it is a generalization, but when I read that they encourage the viewing of the film to aid history classes in high school that catches my attention. Young minds are not only not as critical as the average college student but they also probably do not care as much about deciding what is true fact or not. In Canada, it is discouraged to show films in class unless they are films of fictional books, this is for that exact reason. Most students do not want to decide what is real or not and also can be easily persuaded to

what "sounds better."

During the end of the trailer, I noticed one of the slaves say "..Where laws almost work.." and thought to myself that this is possibly a very controversial opinion about the way laws work in America, even today. It seems like there are so many Catch 22's in society and that the laws govern to only a select amount of people. Obviously, everyone cannot be satisfied, but since movies are very influential and they are allowed to change history so dramatically it is alarming, movies could possibly control general opinion.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

[Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

[< Previous \(Editorial Cartoons\)](#)

[\(Hollywood History & My...\) Next >](#)

You are logged in as Joe Escobar ([Logout](#))

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)

