

Before taking this Film and Culture course, I approached movies mainly as a form of entertainment, without delving deeply into their cultural implications. This course has been eye-opening, showing me how to analyze films through a cultural lens. I've learned to recognize and question how movies portray different aspects of society, including class, race, and ethnicity. For example, working on the signature assignment allowed me to explore how people like Anna May Wong, or Hattie McDaniels made major cultural shift milestones in subtle ways in Hollywood, which helped to create more opportunities for anybody with any cultural background to work in modern Hollywood. This shift in perspective has significantly enhanced my thinking skills. I now approach movies with a more critical eye, considering not just the plot but also the cultural messages and representations they convey. Overall, this course has transformed my understanding of cinematic representation and its impact. I'm excited to continue applying these new analytical skills to my future studies and personal viewing experiences, as I now can further see films as powerful tools for examining and understanding cultural narratives.