



ENGL 445: History of African American Images in Film

What was the catalyst for #OscarsSoWhite in 2016?

Why is Black Panther considered a cinematic milestone when other films in the Marvel Cinematic Universe have also performed incredibly well at the global box office?

In September 2018, why did actress Viola Davis state in interviews that she regrets appearing in The Help (2011)?

This course is an historical and critical examination of the diverse images of African-Americans in cinema since the medium emerged as a popular form of entertainment. This cinematic exploration will be informed by discussions of U.S. politics, economics, and culture, important factors that play a significant role in the construction of African American filmic identities. While narrative and non-narrative cinema are the primary focus of the course, Black representations also subject to exploration may include hip-hop music/videos, television news, reality television, sports, memes, YouTube videos, and other relevant media as they arise over the duration of the semester.

