

# CINEMA IN THE DIGITAL AGE



**ENGL 610 | FALL 2018 | W 5:00-7:50**

Has digital technology killed the cinema? Once upon a time, going to the movies meant sharing an experience with others in a large, and often extravagant, theater, a public experience in which you had no control over the technology and the behavior of others. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, we now hold the cinema in our hands, watching movies on our handheld devices and controlling everything about what, how, and when we entertain ourselves. In this graduate seminar, we will investigate this shift in the cinematic experience and theorize the consequences of moving from cinema as an apparatus to cinema as a prosthesis. We will consider the shift to the digital from technological, psychoanalytic, ideological, and aesthetic perspectives, reading prominent mid-century theorists like Walter Benjamin, Jacques Lacan, and Christian Metz and complementing them with theorists of the digital age like Todd McGowan, D.N Rodowick, and Henry Jenkins. Weekly screenings will consist of a series of films from the late 1990s, just prior to the digital era—like *The Blair Witch Project* (1999) and *The Matrix* (1999)—and then move on to consider movies after 1999—like *Zodiac* (2007), *Paranormal Activity* (2007), *Be Kind Rewind* (2008), *Inglourious Basterds* (2009), *Super 8* (2011), and *Chronicle* (2012).



**For more information, contact Jason Landrum at [jason.landrum@selu.edu](mailto:jason.landrum@selu.edu)**