Welcome Week 2018
Micro-Seminars

The Hollywood Sound:
From the Music Score to Sound Design

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Watching a blockbuster film today, it is easy to get lost in the action scenes, special effects and overall visual design. But that’s only half the picture. You are also listening to highly innovative sound effects and music that have been carefully crafted to create an immersive experience. Since the transition to sound, Hollywood cinema has developed a unique sound style that is central to storytelling and genre formation. Sound helps to tell the story and set the stage. In fact, the film musical came into being because of new sound technology (speakers, microphones, and recorders) and because major studios desired to offer something equivalent to the Broadway stage experience.

This micro-seminar considers the formation of the “The Hollywood Sound” from the rise of the classical film score to the development of sound design. Key areas of interest include sound technology like multichannel formats (surround sound) and soundtrack aesthetics, including the creation of dialogue, music and sound effects. In addition, this seminar will consider the demands of film genres from musical to action movies. Today’s genre films require constant aesthetic and stylistic innovations in order to present new soundscapes and exhibition experiences. For this reason, advertisements often include taglines like “Presented in Dolby Atmos or DTS.” One of the primary goals of this seminar is to provide a new approach to seeing and hearing Hollywood movies. Clips from the following films will be screened: Casablanca, Singin’ in the Rain, Oklahoma, 2001: A Space Odyssey, and Enchanted, as well as Alien, Terminator 2, Star Trek, and Star Wars.