

**Vanderbilt OLLI – Winter 2023**  
**Formative Filmmakers Syllabus**  
**Sarah Childress**  
**docchillz.oli@gmail.com**

In this course, we'll explore the impact of some of the world's most innovative directors on fiction filmmaking. By examining their film history and film art contributions, we'll chart the ways each evolved filmmaking practices and participated in a global network of artistic dialogue. Each class will pair a classic and contemporary filmmaker to trace specific dynamics of artistic influence.

**Week 1 – Early Cinema: A New Medium Established**

In-Class Clips

**Week 2 – Sound Cinema: Expanded Expressiveness**

*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Rouben Mamoulian, 1931) and *The Elephant Man* (David Lynch, 1980)  
*The Elephant Man's Sound, Tracked* (Liz Greene, 2021): <https://vimeo.com/413827977>

**Week 3 – The Golden Ages of Hollywood: The Studio Eras**

*The Grapes of Wrath* (John Ford, 1940) and *The Color Purple* (Steven Spielberg, 1986)

**Week 4 – New Waves in a New World**

*Bicycle Thieves* (Vittorio De Sica, 1948) and *Wendy and Lucy* (Kelly Reichardt, 2008)

**Week 5 – Revolutions in Form**

*Lola Montès* (Max Ophüls, 1955) and *Aftersun* (Charlotte Wells, 2022)

**Week 6 – Representation Matters**

*Watermelon Man* (Melvin Van Peebles, 1969) and *Do the Right Thing* (Spike Lee, 1989)

**Accessing Films**

Kanopy (Nashville Public Library): *The Elephant Man*, *Bicycle Thieves*, and *Wendy and Lucy*  
YouTube: *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (with Spanish subtitles)  
HBO Max: *Bicycle Thieves* and *Lola Montès*  
Criterion Channel: *Bicycle Thieves* and *Lola Montès*  
All films available as Amazon Prime or Apple TV rentals.