Rationale and aims
This module will consider a wide range of variations on the ‘melodramatic mode’, including examples from early cinema, classical Hollywood cinema, as well as current American and European cinema. We will explore key theoretical debates around melodrama and link these debates with critically informed close analyses of the films under discussion.

Course Content
Defining melodrama
Genre and sub-genres
Film style and mise-en-scène
Questions of authorship
Issues of audience and spectatorship
Social and cultural contexts
National and industrial contexts
Critical responses
Textual analyses
Generic revisionism

Resources
There is no set text for this course. Required viewing and reading is set each week. Further viewing and reading is recommended as appropriate.
The following titles are useful accompaniments to the module as a whole.

Gledhill, C. Home is where the heart is: studies in melodrama and the woman’s film. BFI, 1987.

**Learning outcomes**
On successful completion of this module students will be able to:
1. Synthesise their knowledge of melodrama within a wider economic, industrial, aesthetic and socio-cultural context;
2. Analyse current issues within the study of melodrama within the broader context of currents within film studies;
3. Recognise the range of material that characterizes the category of melodrama;
4. Apply the theoretical models and critical approaches under discussion to specific films and film styles.

**Methods of Teaching and Student Learning**
Teaching methods include film screenings, lectures and seminar discussions. Students will be expected to attend all classes and screenings; read from primary as well as secondary sources and comment upon these readings; participate in class discussion; perform the required assessment. Students may be required to make a class presentation on some aspect of the course covered.

**Methods of assessment**
- 90% Coursework
- 10% Participation

**Module Evaluation**
Course and Teaching Surveys will be circulated to students at the end of the module. Feedback will be used to reflect on course development.