From the beginning, Hollywood was self-conscious about the lure of its often-destructive ways and always-reflexive mythology. What could be more natural than cannibalizing itself for source material? Movies about movies seem to revel in their own dark glamour, daring us to believe that only Hollywood would dare to show the rest of us back in flyover country what a special circle of hell Hollywood really is. We will be thinking about genre and gender, industry and art, Cold War paranoia, the feeding cycle of producers, actors, directors and writers, celluloid immortality and virtual death, with comic mayhem and tragic hijinks along the way.

Films run from the ur-text *A Star is Born* to such noir classics as *Sunset Boulevard* and *In A lonely Place* to revisionist approaches like *Barton Fink* and *The Player*, culminating in such recent deconstructions as *Mullholland Drive* and *Tropic Thunder*. Books include *The Day of the Locust*, *Suspects*, and *Zeroville*.

Expect loads of content, a little theory, lively discussion, two 7-9 page essays, two exams, and a final creative project.