History of the Gangster Film 1930s to 1950s (Syllabus Subject to Change)

OLLI, Las Ventanas (Wednesdays, 10:00-Noon)

Danielle Hartnett, Instructor deehartnett13@gmail.com

Week One:

Little Caesar, 1931 (Starring Edward G. Robinson, 1 hr 19 min)

Topic: The Gangster Film—Iconography, Themes, and History

Week Two:

Scarface, 1932 (Starring Paul Muni & George Raft, 1 hr 33 min)

Topic: Hollywood Film Censorship

Week Three:

Angels With Dirty Faces, 1938 (Starring James Cagney & Humphrey Bogart, 1 hr 37 min)

Topic: The Gangster as Anti-Hero

Week Four:

Brother Orchid, 1940 (Starring Edward G Robinson & Humphrey Bogart, 1 hr 38 min)

Topic: World War II and the (Lack of) Gangster Films

Week Five:

Key Largo, 1948 (Starring Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson & Lauren Bacall, 1 hr 40 min)

Topic: The Death of the Warner Bros. Gangster—From Rico to Rocco

Week Six:

I Walk Alone, 1947 (Starring Burt Lancaster & Kirk Douglas, 1 hr 37 min)

Topic: No More Business as Usual—The Rise of Film Noir

Week Seven:

Force of Evil, 1948 (Starring John Garfield, 1 hr 19 min)

Topic: The Hollywood Blacklist

Week Eight:

The Killing, 1956 (Starring Sterling Hayden, 1 hr 24 min)

Topic: The Heist Movie