

Dr. Wieland Schwanebeck

PS/Ü

Hitchcock and 'Hitchcock'

Mon (5)

HSZ 204

The name Hitchcock certainly requires no introduction to cinemagoers and film scholars: the famous director of such classic films as *The Lady Vanishes* (1938) or *Psycho* (1960) is an established presence, going by the moniker of "The Master of Suspense," which sums up the trademark qualities of his work.

The academic study of Hitchcock goes back to the late 1950s, when Hitchcock himself granted interviews to young scholars and established his own image in cultural memory. As a consequence, Hitchcock scholarship has found it hard to escape the shadow of the man himself, to put his films under scrutiny without falling prey to myths and legends surrounding Hitchcock's life and his working methods, and to carefully distinguish between Hitchcock (the man) and 'Hitchcock' (the body of work authorised by him).

This seminar will investigate a number of these issues, focusing on questions such as: Why is the British oeuvre considered inferior to the American one? Why did Hitchcock's success have to come at the expense of his collaborators? What are the major qualities of his films, and how is suspense created?

Our discussions will involve seminal works from the fields of film theory and film analysis (including concepts by David Bordwell, Laura Mulvey, and Andrew Sarris), and we will assess films both from the British and the American period, including *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* (1927), *Sabotage* (1936) and *Rear Window* (1954).

The films will be available in an *Audiovisueller Semesterapparat* in the SLUB (Mediathek), so you can watch them in the library.

You can join this class no matter if you have already attended the introductory course or not. You do not have to register beforehand – just be there for the first meeting.

A reader with key theoretical texts (which must be read on a weekly basis) will be available at the beginning of the term.

Students will be encouraged to attend the international conference "Sabotaging 'Hitchcock'" which will be hosted at TU Dresden between 19 and 21 June, 2014.