In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore African American film and the history, aesthetics, political and commercial contexts of its production. What, that is, are the evolutions and progressions from film to film? How are these cinematic reflections embedded, as well as in conversation with, larger sociohistorical, political, and racial ideologies? And how do these films draw upon and deploy black cultural aesthetics, expressive culture, and cinematic techniques—such as film shots and angles, color schemes, narratives, scripts, language, and music—to shape representational, aesthetic, and thematic developments in African American film? Examining various types of film during different historical and cinematic eras, namely (though not exclusively post-1970 to the contemporary moment), this course examines how black directors and filmmakers engage, produce, and complicate narratives of race, specifically U.S. representations of blackness and constructions of race, as these intersect with gender, sexuality, class, geography, and other axes of identity.