

*Course Description*

**Film, Text, and Politics (ENGL 4373):**

**“Vision and Power”**

Karen Fang

Why do we like movies? Why are crime films and cop movies some of the most commercially successful film genres? Are these films merely escapist forms of entertainment, or do they reflect “real” life?

This course explores these questions by investigating the social, historical, and philosophical issues surrounding cinema, particularly its relationship with state and social power. As both technology and entertainment, cinema can be a window or mirror onto society, as well as a means of exerting power in real life. Our study, in other words, can be summarized by the question: *why do we like to watch?*

Coursework includes reading and film viewing (all outside of classroom). Requirements include midterm, final exam, presentations and class discussion.