

Black History Month Film Club: 4-Week Schedule & Watchlist

A curated weekly breakdown pairing cinema history movements with discussion prompts, plus an extended genre-based watchlist.

4-Week Film Club Schedule

Week / Theme	Core Feature Film	Discussion & Analytical Focus
Week 1: The Pioneers & Early Auteurs	Within Our Gates (1920) Dir. Oscar Micheaux <i>Alternative: Body and Soul (1925)</i>	How Micheaux countered the racist framing of 'The Birth of a Nation'. Discuss the silent film era's aesthetics, independent distribution struggles, and the use of cinema as political pushback.
Week 2: The L.A. Rebellion Era	Daughters of the Dust (1991) Dir. Julie Dash <i>Alternative: Killer of Sheep (1978)</i>	The poetic, non-linear storytelling style of Gullah culture. Analyze the visual language of cinematographer Arthur Jafa and the reclamation of historical memory outside Hollywood.
Week 3: The Nineties Indie Explosion	Do the Right Thing (1989) Dir. Spike Lee <i>Alternative: Boyz n the Hood (1991)</i>	Spike Lee's vibrant color palette, canted angles, and direct address technique. Examine the structural pacing, socio-political urgency, and multi-layered ensemble dynamics.
Week 4: Modern Auteurs & Surrealism	Moonlight (2016) Dir. Barry Jenkins <i>Alternative: Get Out (2017)</i>	The triptych structure, neon-soaked lighting, and vulnerable close-ups. Discuss the subversion of traditional genre boundaries and modern shifts in identity representation.

Extended Extended Genre Watchlist

Genre	Recommended Titles & Directors
Documentaries	• I Am Not Your Negro (2016) – Dir. Raoul Peck • 13th (2016) – Dir. Ava DuVernay • The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975 (2011) – Dir. Göran Olsson
Historical & Biopic	• Malcolm X (1992) – Dir. Spike Lee • Judas and the Black Messiah (2021) – Dir. Shaka King • Selma (2014) – Dir. Ava DuVernay

Psychological & Horror	• Get Out (2017) – Dir. Jordan Peele • Ganja & Hess (1973) – Dir. Bill Gunn • Eve's Bayou (1997) – Dir. Kasi Lemmons
Contemporary Drama & Romance	• If Beale Street Could Talk (2018) – Dir. Barry Jenkins • Love & Basketball (2000) – Dir. Gina Prince-Bythewood • Passing (2021) – Dir. Rebecca Hall