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**Gary May** specializes in American political, diplomatic, and social history since 1945. He received his Ph.D. from U.C.L.A. in 1974. He is the author of *China Scapegoat: The Diplomatic Ordeal of John Carter Vincent* (1979), *Un-American Activities: The Trials of William Remington* (1994) and *The Informant: The FBI, the Ku Klux Klan and the Murder of Viola Liuzzo* (2005).

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

##### **MALS625 (core course): Film and American Society**

Using major motion pictures, this course will explore how Hollywood dealt with critical historical events: the Cold War, McCarthyism, the Civil Rights Movement, Vietnam, Watergate, and the modern Presidency. Films will include: *On The Waterfront*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Dr. Strangelove*, *Mississippi Burning*, *JFK*, *Apocalypse Now* and others.

##### **MALS667: Presidential Character**

One close observer of the presidency once noted that "anybody who wanted to be President of the United States should have his head examined." This seminar will do exactly that by exploring presidential character. We will focus on seven presidents: Truman, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Reagan, Clinton, and Bush 43, examining first the shaping of their personalities, then explore how personality affected the conduct of their presidencies.