This class will focus on the work of writer-director Billy Wilder, from the noir of *Double Indemnity* and *Sunset Blvd.* to the comedy of *Some Like It Hot* and *One, Two, Three*, the biting satire of *Ace in the Hole* to the melancholy romance of *The Apartment*. As with any auteurist class, we'll explore Wilder's biography, influences, and stylistic and thematic preoccupations, including his status as a Jewish refugee of European fascism and his formative experiences in Weimar Germany. His background informed his supposed 'cynicism' but also his empathy for those on the margins of respectability and victimized by the powerful. We will also use his career as a means to explore larger phenomenon of the Hollywood Studio System including the absorption of European refugees, Classical Hollywood style, the studio system and its decline, film noir, the rise of independent production, gender and stardom, and the breakdown of the Production Code and censorship.

Screenings may also include: *Ninotchka, Ball of Fire, Hold Back the Dawn, The Lost Weekend, A Foreign Affair, Sabrina, Witness for the Prosecution, Irma la Douce*, and many more.

CTCS 469 Billy Wilder's Hollywood

Tuesdays 10AM-1:50PM Norris Cinema Theatre Prof. Luci Marzola