

9. List of film genres and sub-genres

PDF HANDOUT

The following list of film genres and sub-genres has been adapted from “Film Sub-Genres Types (and Hybrids)” written by Tim Dirks²⁹.

Genre	Film sub-genres types and hybrids	
Action or adventure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action or Adventure Comedy • Action/Adventure Drama • Alien Invasion • Animal • Biker • Blaxploitation • Blockbusters • Buddy • Buddy Cops (or Odd Couple) • Caper • Chase Films or Thrillers • Comic-Book Action • Confined Space Action • Conspiracy Thriller (Paranoid Thriller) • Cop Action • Costume Adventures • Crime Films • Desert Epics • Disaster or Doomsday • Epic Adventure Films • Erotic Thrillers • Escape • Espionage • Exploitation (ie Nunsplotation, Naziploitation) • Family-oriented Adventure • Fantasy Adventure • Futuristic • Girls With Guns • Guy Films • Heist—Caper Films • Heroic Bloodshed Films • Historical Spectacles • Hong Kong • <i>James Bond</i> series • Jungle and Safari Epics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature/Folklore Adventure Heroes • Martial Arts Action (Kung-Fu) • Man- or Woman-In-Peril • Man vs. Nature • Mountain • Period Action Films • Political Conspiracies, Thrillers • Poliziotteschi (Italian) • Prison • Psychological Thriller • Quest • Rape and Revenge Films • Road • Romantic Adventures • Sci-Fi Action/Adventure • Samurai • Sea Adventures • Searches/Expeditions for Lost Continents • Serialized films • Space Adventures • Sports—Action • Spy • Straight Action/Conflict • Super-Heroes • Surfing or Surf Films • Survival • Swashbuckler • Sword and Sorcery (or “Sword and Sandal”) • (Action) Suspense Thrillers • Techno-Thrillers • Treasure Hunts • Undercover • Video Game Movies • War Adventure • Women in Prison

²⁹ “Film Sub-Genres Types (and Hybrids)”. Web. <http://www.filmsite.org/subgenres2.html>. Accessed 25 May 2016.

Genre	Film sub-genres types and hybrids	
Comedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absurd • Action Comedies • Anarchic Comedies • Animals • Black Comedies (Dark Humour) • British Humour • Buddy • Classic Comedies • Clown • Comedy Thrillers • Comic Criminals • Coming of Age • Conceptual • Crime/Caper Comedies • "Dumb" Comedies • Fairy Tale • Family Comedies • Farce • Fish-out-of-water Comedies • Gross-out Comedies • Horror Comedies • Lampoon • Mafia Comedies • "Meet-Cute" Screwball or Romantic Comedies • Military Comedies • Mock-umentary (Fake Documentary) • Musical Comedies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenthood Comedies • Parody • Political Comedies • Populist • Pre-Teen Comedies • Remarriage Comedies • Road • Romantic Comedies ("Rom-Coms") • Satire • School Days • Screwball Comedies • Sex Comedies • Slacker • Slapstick • Social-Class Comedies • Sophisticated Comedies • Spoofs • Sports Comedies • Stand-Up • Stoner Comedies • Supernatural Comedies • Teen/Teen Sex Comedies • Urban Comedies • War Comedies • Western Comedies • Zombie Comedies
Crime and gangster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Bad Girl" Movies • Blaxploitation • Buddy Cop • Caper Stories • Cops and Robbers • Courtroom Drama • Crime Comedy or Drama • Detective/Mysteries • Espionage • Femme Fatales • Film Noir • Gangs • Hard-boiled Detective • HeistHood Films • Juvenile Delinquency • Law and Order (Legal) • Lovers on the Run Road Films 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mafia (Gangster), Organized Crime, Mob Films • Mysteries • Neo-Noir • Outlaw Biker Films • Police/Detective • Post-Noir • Procedurals • Prison • Private-Eye • Suspense Thrillers • Trial Films • True Crime • Vice Films • Victim • Who-dun-its • Women's Prison Films

Genre	Film sub-genres types and hybrids	
Cult	Any genre or sub-genre may be considered a “cult film”.	
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptations, Based upon True Stories • Addiction and/or Alcoholism • Adventure Drama • Adult • African-American • Americana • Autobiographies/Biographies • Biopics (Biographical) • British Empire • Buddy Film • “Chick” Flicks or “Guy-Cry” Films • Childhood Dramas • Christmas Films • Coming-of-Age • Costume Dramas • Courtroom Dramas • Crime Dramas • Dance • Diary Films • Disease/Disability • Disaster • Docu-dramas • Ensemble • Erotic Drama • Espionage • Ethnic Family Saga • Euro-Spy Films • “Fallen” Women • Fantasy Drama • Feminist • Film a Clef • Gay and Lesbian • Generation Gap • Hagiographies (Religious Figures) • Heavenly Drama • High School • Holiday Film • Holocaust • Hood Films • Inspirational • Investigative Reporting • Legal/Courtroom • Life Story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literary Adaptation • Love • Marital Drama • Medical • Melodramas (“Women’s Pictures”, Tearjerkers or “Weepies”) • Message Movie • Musical Drama • Newspaper • Nostalgia • Odd Couple • Period Film • Police Drama • POW Drama • Presidential Politics or Political Dramas • Prison Drama • Propaganda • Prostitution • Psychological Drama • Race Relations, Interracial Themes • Religious • Resistance • Reunion • Road Movie • Romantic Dramas • Rural Drama • Sexual/Erotic (Steamy Romantic Dramas) • Shakespearean • Showbiz Dramas • Slice of Life • Soap Opera • Social Problem Film, Social Commentaries • Small-town Life • Sports Dramas or Biopics • Supernatural Drama • Teen (or Youth) Films • Tragedy • True Crime Drama • Urban Drama • War-Military Dramas • Women’s Friendship • Youth Culture

Genre	Film sub-genres types and hybrids	
Epics or historical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate History (What if ...?) • Biblical • British Empire • Dark Ages • Greek Myth • Hagiographies • Historical or Biographical Epics (Biopics) • Indian History • Literary Adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medieval (Dark Ages) • "Period Pictures" • Religious • Roman Empire • Romantic Epic • Sword and Sandal • War or Westerns (Epic)
Horror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B-Movie Horror • Cannibalism or Cannibal Films • Classic Horror • Costume Horror • Creature Features • Demons or Demonic Possession • Dracula • Erotic • "Found Footage" • Frankenstein, other Mad Scientists • Ghosts • Giallo (European, Italian specifically) • Gore • Gothic • Haunted House, other Hauntings • Halloween • Horror Comedy (Humorous) • HP Lovecraftian • Macabre • Man-Made Horrors • Monsters • Natural Horror • Occult 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older-Woman-In-Peril Films ("Psycho-Biddy"/"Hag Horror"/"Hagsploitation") • Paranormal • Post-Apocalyptic (or Apocalyptic) Horror • Psychic Powers • Psychological Horror • Reincarnation • Sadistic Horror • Satanic Stories • Sci-Fi Horror • Serial Killers • Sex Horror • Slashers or "Splatter" Films • Supernatural Horror • Survival Horror • Teen Terror ("Teen Screams") • Terror • Vampires • Witchcraft • Wolves, Werewolves • Zombies
Musicals and dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animated • Backstage Musicals • Ballet • Beach Party Films • Musical Biographies • Broadway Show Musicals • Comedy Musicals • Concert Films • Dance Films • Dramatic Musicals • Fairy Tale Musicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fantasy Musical • Film-Opera • Folk Musicals • Hip-Hop Films • Operettas • Rock-umentary • Romantic Musicals • Show-Biz Comedy • Stage Musicals • Western Musicals

Genre	Film sub-genres types and hybrids	
Science fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action or Adventure Sci-Fi • Alien Invasion • Aliens, Extra-Terrestrial Encounters • Anime • AI (Artificial Intelligence) • Atomic Age • Classic Sci-Fi • Creature Films • Disaster • Dystopic or Dystopia • End of World • Exploration • Fairy Tales • Fantasy Films • 50's Sci-Fi • "First Contact" • Futuristic (or Future Noir) • Galactic Empire • Lost Worlds • Mad Scientists • Militaristic • Monsters and Mutants • Mythic Fables or Mythology • Natural Horror 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near Future • Other Dimensions • Outer Space • Parallel (or Alternate) Universe • Post-Apocalyptic (or Apocalyptic) • Pre-historic • Psychological Sci-Fi • Pulp • Punk Sci-Fi (ie Steam Punk, Nano Punk, Atom Punk, Cyber Punk, and so on) • Religious or Theological • Robots, Cyborgs and Androids • Sci-Fi Comedies • Sci-Fi Horror • Sci-Fi Thrillers • Space Opera • Space or Sci-Fi Westerns • Speculative • Star Trek • Super-Hero Films (for example, Superman and Others) • Supernatural • Tech-Noir • Time or Space Travel • Virtual Reality
War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Combat • Aerial Combat, Aviation • Afghanistan-Iraq Conflict • Anti-War • Civil War • Combat • Escape • Gulf War • Historical • Korean War • Military • Military Comedy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prisoner of War (POW)/Escape • Propaganda • Resistance • Revolutionary War • War-Spy • Submarine • Vietnam War • War Adventure • War Epic • War Romance • World War I • World War II

Genre	Film sub-genres types and hybrids	
Westerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal • B-Western • Biographies • Cattle Drive • Cavalry • Comedy Westerns • Epic Westerns • Euro-Westerns • Frontier • Gunfighters • Historical • Hybrid Westerns (with horror, noir, road movie, martial arts, and so on) • Indian War or Indian Westerns • Issue Western 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marshal Westerns • Military • Modern Western • Musical Western • Outlaws • Psychological Westerns • Revenge Westerns • Revisionist • Road-Trail Journeys • Romantic Westerns • Science-Fiction Westerns • Shoot-outs • Space Westerns • “Spaghetti” Westerns • Spoof Westerns • Traditional