

## 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 Dirks<sup>29</sup>.

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

<sup>29</sup> “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"> <li>• Absurd</li> <li>• Action Comedies</li> <li>• Anarchic Comedies</li> <li>• Animals</li> <li>• Black Comedies (Dark Humour)</li> <li>• British Humour</li> <li>• Buddy</li> <li>• Classic Comedies</li> <li>• Clown</li> <li>• Comedy Thrillers</li> <li>• Comic Criminals</li> <li>• Coming of Age</li> <li>• Conceptual</li> <li>• Crime/Caper Comedies</li> <li>• "Dumb" Comedies</li> <li>• Fairy Tale</li> <li>• Family Comedies</li> <li>• Farce</li> <li>• Fish-out-of-water Comedies</li> <li>• Gross-out Comedies</li> <li>• Horror Comedies</li> <li>• Lampoon</li> <li>• Mafia Comedies</li> <li>• "Meet-Cute" Screwball or Romantic Comedies</li> <li>• Military Comedies</li> <li>• Mock-umentary (Fake Documentary)</li> <li>• Musical Comedies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenthood Comedies</li> <li>• Parody</li> <li>• Political Comedies</li> <li>• Populist</li> <li>• Pre-Teen Comedies</li> <li>• Remarriage Comedies</li> <li>• Road</li> <li>• Romantic Comedies ("Rom-Coms")</li> <li>• Satire</li> <li>• School Days</li> <li>• Screwball Comedies</li> <li>• Sex Comedies</li> <li>• Slacker</li> <li>• Slapstick</li> <li>• Social-Class Comedies</li> <li>• Sophisticated Comedies</li> <li>• Spoofs</li> <li>• Sports Comedies</li> <li>• Stand-Up</li> <li>• Stoner Comedies</li> <li>• Supernatural Comedies</li> <li>• Teen/Teen Sex Comedies</li> <li>• Urban Comedies</li> <li>• War Comedies</li> <li>• Western Comedies</li> <li>• Zombie Comedies</li> </ul>
Crime and gangster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Bad Girl" Movies</li> <li>• Blaxploitation</li> <li>• Buddy Cop</li> <li>• Caper Stories</li> <li>• Cops and Robbers</li> <li>• Courtroom Drama</li> <li>• Crime Comedy or Drama</li> <li>• Detective/Mysteries</li> <li>• Espionage</li> <li>• Femme Fatales</li> <li>• Film Noir</li> <li>• Gangs</li> <li>• Hard-boiled Detective</li> <li>• HeistHood Films</li> <li>• Juvenile Delinquency</li> <li>• Law and Order (Legal)</li> <li>• Lovers on the Run Road Films</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mafia (Gangster), Organized Crime, Mob Films</li> <li>• Mysteries</li> <li>• Neo-Noir</li> <li>• Outlaw Biker Films</li> <li>• Police/Detective</li> <li>• Post-Noir</li> <li>• Procedurals</li> <li>• Prison</li> <li>• Private-Eye</li> <li>• Suspense Thrillers</li> <li>• Trial Films</li> <li>• True Crime</li> <li>• Vice Films</li> <li>• Victim</li> <li>• Who-dun-its</li> <li>• Women's Prison Films</li> </ul>

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"> <li>• Adaptations, Based upon True Stories</li> <li>• Addiction and/or Alcoholism</li> <li>• Adventure Drama</li> <li>• Adult</li> <li>• African-American</li> <li>• Americana</li> <li>• Autobiographies/Biographies</li> <li>• Biopics (Biographical)</li> <li>• British Empire</li> <li>• Buddy Film</li> <li>• “Chick” Flicks or “Guy-Cry” Films</li> <li>• Childhood Dramas</li> <li>• Christmas Films</li> <li>• Coming-of-Age</li> <li>• Costume Dramas</li> <li>• Courtroom Dramas</li> <li>• Crime Dramas</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• Diary Films</li> <li>• Disease/Disability</li> <li>• Disaster</li> <li>• Docu-dramas</li> <li>• Ensemble</li> <li>• Erotic Drama</li> <li>• Espionage</li> <li>• Ethnic Family Saga</li> <li>• Euro-Spy Films</li> <li>• “Fallen” Women</li> <li>• Fantasy Drama</li> <li>• Feminist</li> <li>• Film a Clef</li> <li>• Gay and Lesbian</li> <li>• Generation Gap</li> <li>• Hagiographies (Religious Figures)</li> <li>• Heavenly Drama</li> <li>• High School</li> <li>• Holiday Film</li> <li>• Holocaust</li> <li>• Hood Films</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Investigative Reporting</li> <li>• Legal/Courtroom</li> <li>• Life Story</li> <li>• Literary Adaptation</li> <li>• Love</li> <li>• Marital Drama</li> <li>• Medical</li> <li>• Melodramas (“Women’s Pictures”, Tearjerkers or “Weepies”)</li> <li>• Message Movie</li> <li>• Musical Drama</li> <li>• Newspaper</li> <li>• Nostalgia</li> <li>• Odd Couple</li> <li>• Period Film</li> <li>• Police Drama</li> <li>• POW Drama</li> <li>• Presidential Politics or Political Dramas</li> <li>• Prison Drama</li> <li>• Propaganda</li> <li>• Prostitution</li> <li>• Psychological Drama</li> <li>• Race Relations, Interracial Themes</li> <li>• Religious</li> <li>• Resistance</li> <li>• Reunion</li> <li>• Road Movie</li> <li>• Romantic Dramas</li> <li>• Rural Drama</li> <li>• Sexual/Erotic (Steamy Romantic Dramas)</li> <li>• Shakespearean</li> <li>• Showbiz Dramas</li> <li>• Slice of Life</li> <li>• Soap Opera</li> <li>• Social Problem Film, Social Commentaries</li> <li>• Small-town Life</li> <li>• Sports Dramas or Biopics</li> <li>• Supernatural Drama</li> <li>• Teen (or Youth) Films</li> <li>• Tragedy</li> <li>• True Crime Drama</li> <li>• Urban Drama</li> <li>• War-Military Dramas</li> <li>• Women’s Friendship</li> <li>• Youth Culture</li> </ul>	

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

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

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