



高校英语选修课系列教材

STUDY ON AMERICAN SCI-FI MOVIES

美国科幻电影 赏析教程

赵英男 编著



清华大学出版社



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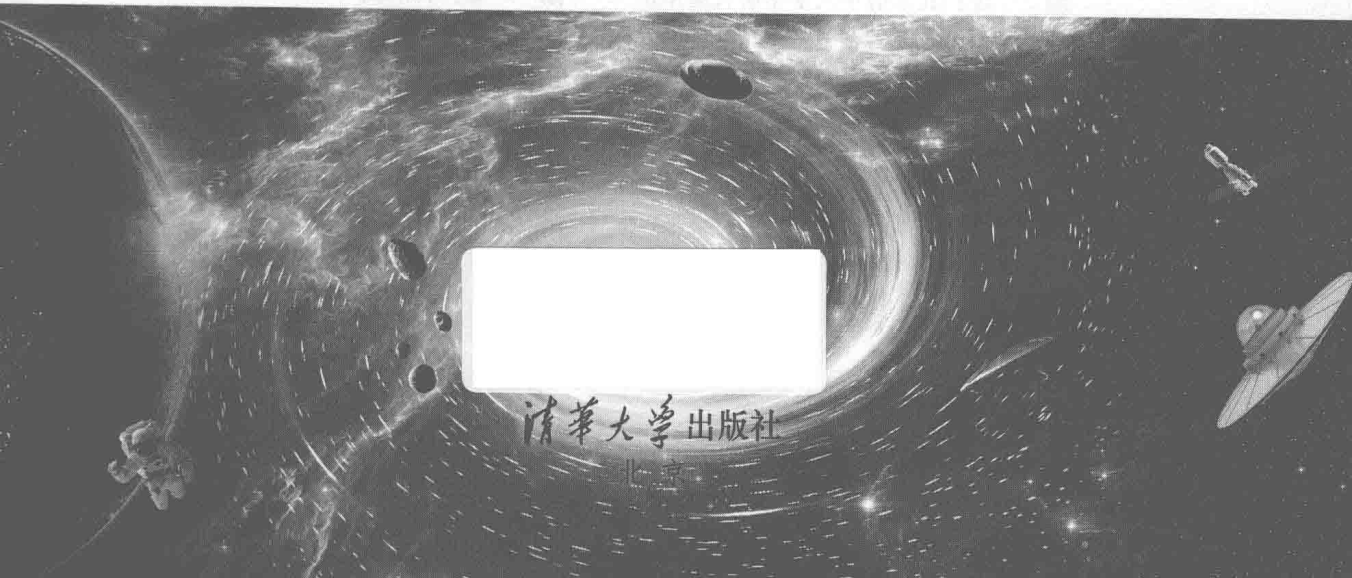
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北京



内 容 简 介

《美国科幻电影赏析教程》取材于20世纪70年代至21世纪初的10部具有代表性的美国科幻电影。通过对影片进行历时梳理,引导学生深入了解美国电影文化中所体现的价值观、发展观和未来看,启发学生思考现代文明社会发展历程中一些贯穿始终的重要问题。

全书共分5个单元,每个单元包含美国国情背景学习及影片赏析两个部分。美国国情背景学习部分旨在引导学生将科幻电影主题与美国的政治、经济、科技及文化发展相关联,并能对其进行完整深入的解读;影片赏析部分兼顾语言学习,设计了听、说、读、写等多种练习形式。

本教材可供国内高校本科生及研究生影视文化类英语通识课程使用。

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前言

Foreword

《美国科幻电影赏析教程》是编者在为清华大学非英语专业研究生开设的英语课程“美国科幻电影专题研究”基础上编写而成，得到清华大学“双一流大学推进计划”研究生教学改革项目的支持。本教材可供国内高校本科生及研究生影视文化类英语通识课程使用。课程内容以科幻电影为研究主体，通过历时梳理，引导学生深入了解美国电影文化中所体现的价值观、发展观和未来观，启发学生批判性地思考科技发展与文明发展的关系、科技对社会整体结构和个体的影响、人类对自身存在及未来命运的理解等贯穿现代文明社会发展历程的重要问题。

全书共分5个单元，选取了20世纪70年代至21世纪初的10部具有代表性的美国科幻电影。每个单元包含美国国情背景学习及影片赏析两个部分。美国国情背景学习部分旨在引导学生将科幻电影主题与美国的政治、经济、科技及文化发展相关联，并能对其进行完整深入的解读；影片赏析部分兼顾语言学习，设计了听、说、读、写等多种练习形式。这些练习不仅可以训练学生的语言技能，而且听力片段的选取、口语练习的话题设计、影评角度的选择，都会帮助学生进一步理解影片的结构、主题、人物及特色。课后作业的设计一方面可以让学生就影片的某个方面做出深入思考并进行观点提炼，另一方面可以拓展学生的观影范畴，对相似主题的电影做比较研究。总之，教材中各个部分的设计，从美国国情背景，到影片介绍，再到听力、口语、阅读等练习及课后作业，构成一个有机整体，帮助学生逐步加深对赏析影片的理解，最终实现对影片的全面解读。

课时安排可视使用者具体情况而定。编者建议在一个学期内完成本教材的学习，以每周两课时计，每单元可用三周（六课时）完成。除教材内安排的学习及作业内容，教师可根据教学条件安排学生尝试多种小组活动，如学生演讲、制片实践、田野调查等。

在本教材编写过程中，编者带领清华大学8名本科生完成了题为“美国科幻电影研究”的SRT（Student Research Training）项目。项目组成员包括张尧睿、王璐、郝赛男、杨才德、谭天阳、王淼、高健航和连芮桦。他们来自清华大学不同院系和不同年级，在老师的指导下参与了教材部分内容的搜集和整理。张尧睿还额外承担了部分修改和校对的工作。

如需本教材涉及的10部电影资源，请致电：（010）83470361。

作者才疏学浅，书中难免会有错误和不当之处，热忱欢迎读者批评指正。

编者

于清华园

2019年4月



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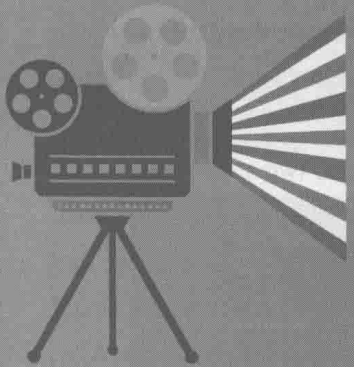
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UNIT ONE



SCI-FI MOVIES
IN THE 1970S



Part A

America in the 1970s

I Politics



The Cold War (1945–1991)



The Cold War was a period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union with its satellite states (the Eastern Bloc), and the United States with its allies (the Western Bloc) after World War II. The conflict began in 1946 and ended between the Revolutions of 1989 and the collapse of the USSR in 1991. The term “cold” is used because there was no large-scale fighting directly between the two sides,

but they each supported major regional conflicts known as proxy wars^①.

Although during the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States, two superpowers with profound economic and political differences, never engaged directly in full-scale armed combat, they both were heavily armed in preparation for a possible all-out nuclear world war. Each side had a nuclear strategy that discouraged an attack by the other side, on the basis that such an attack would lead to the total destruction of the attacker—the doctrine of mutually assured destruction (MAD). Aside from the development of the two sides’ nuclear arsenals, and their deployment of the conventional military forces, the struggle for dominance was expressed via proxy wars around the globe, psychological warfare, massive propaganda campaigns and espionage, far-reaching embargoes, rivalry at sports events, and technological competitions such as the Space Race.

① A proxy war (代理战争) is a conflict instigated by opposing powers who do not fight against each other directly. Instead, they use third parties to do the fighting for them.

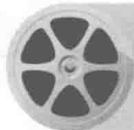
Before the 1970s, the US had enjoyed distinct advantage in the cold war, in terms of economy and military forces. However, the Soviet Union has gradually gained upper hand in the competition against the United States, especially in the field of nuclear weapons. Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 left Americans nothing but huge fear of nuclear war.



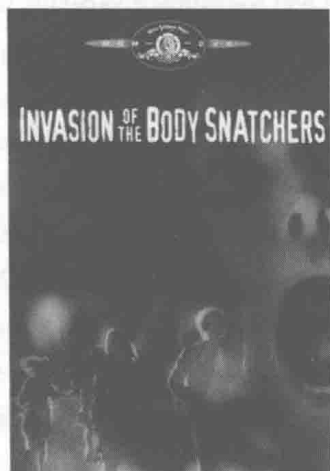
The US President John F. Kennedy spoke before reporters during a televised speech to the nation about the strategic blockade of Cuba, and his warning to the Soviet Union about missile sanctions, during the Cuban missile crisis, on October 24, 1962 in Washington, D.C.

The Cold War and its events have left a significant legacy. It is often referred to in popular culture, especially in media featuring themes of espionage (notably the internationally successful James Bond book and film franchise) and the threat of nuclear warfare. Meanwhile, a renewed state of tension between the Soviet Union's successor state, Russia, and the United States (including its Western allies) in the 2010s has been referred to as the Second Cold War.

* * *



Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)



The tagline of this film is "Watch out! They get you while you're sleeping!", which clearly gives warnings to the possible incursion. The hero Matthew Bennell notices that several of his friends are complaining that their close relatives are in some way different. When questioned later, they themselves seem changed as they deny everything or make lame excuses. As the invaders increase in number, they become more open and Bennell, who has by now witnessed an attempted "replacement", realizes that he and his friends must escape or suffer the same fate.



The Vietnam War and the Anti-War Movement

The Vietnam War was an undeclared war in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from November 1, 1955 to April 30, 1975. It was officially fought between North Vietnam and South Vietnam. North Vietnam was supported by the Soviet Union and its communist allies; South Vietnam was supported by the United States and its anti-communist allies. The war is considered a Cold War-era proxy war from some US perspectives. It lasted some 19 years with direct US involvement ending in 1973 following the Paris Peace Accords.



The US started providing financial and military supports for the South Vietnamese state in the 1950s and its involvement escalated in the 1960s. By 1964, there were 23,000 US troops in Vietnam. The People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN), also known as the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) engaged in most conventional warfare with the US and the South Vietnamese forces. The US and the South Vietnamese forces relied on air superiority and overwhelming firepower to conduct search and destroy operations.

Gradual withdrawal of the US ground forces began as part of "Vietnamization", which aimed to end American involvement in the war while transferring the task of fighting the communists to the South Vietnamese themselves and began the task of modernizing their armed forces. Direct US military involvement ended on August 15, 1973 as a result of the Case-Church Amendment passed by the US Congress. In 1975, South Vietnamese were defeated and the North and South Vietnam were reunified the following year.

The war exacted a huge human cost in terms of fatalities. Within the US the war gave rise to what was referred to as Vietnam Syndrome, a public aversion to American overseas military involvements, which together with the Watergate Scandal contributed to the crisis of confidence that affected America throughout the 1970s.



During the four years following passage of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution (August 1964), which authorized US military action in Southeast Asia, the American air war intensified and troop levels climbed to over 500,000. Opposition to the war grew as television



and press coverage graphically showed the suffering of both civilians and conscripts. In 1965 demonstrations in New York City attracted 25,000 marchers; within two years similar demonstrations drew several hundred thousand participants in Washington, D.C., London, and other European capitals. Most of the demonstrations were peaceful. Much of the impetus for the antiwar protests came from college students. By 1967, the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) invoked the language of revolution in its denunciations of the war in Vietnam as an inevitable

consequence of American imperialism. In 1968, President Johnson, who was challenged by two antiwar candidates within his own party for the presidential nomination, chose not to run. The election of Richard Nixon in 1968 and his reduction in US ground forces did little to dampen the antiwar movements. His decision to invade Cambodia in 1970 led to massive demonstrations on college campuses, most tragically at Kent State University where four people were killed by members of the Ohio National Guard. The legacy and meaning of the massive protests against the Vietnam War are still debated.



The Watergate Scandal

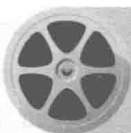
The Watergate scandal was a major political scandal that occurred in the United States during the early 1970s, following a break-in by five men at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. on June 17, 1972, and the subsequent attempt of President Richard Nixon's administration to cover up its involvement. After the five burglars were caught, the FBI investigated and discovered a connection between cash found on the burglars and a slush fund used by the Committee for the Re-Election of the President (CRP), the official organization of Nixon's campaign. The investigation revealed that Nixon had a tape-recording system in his offices and that he had recorded many conversations.



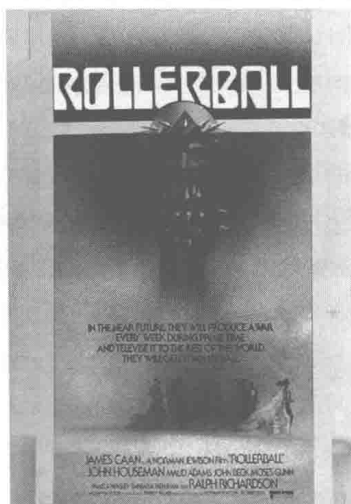
Facing virtually certain impeachment in the House of Representatives and equally certain conviction by the Senate, Nixon resigned the presidency on August 9, 1974.

The name “Watergate” and the suffix “-gate” have since become synonymous with political and non-political scandals in the United States, and some other parts of the world.

* * *



Rollerball (1975)



Norman Jewison's extreme-sports future shock bundles together a paranoid political thriller, a media satire, ultraviolent exploitation and reverent respect for athletic pursuits. In this dystopian future, corporate rule has toppled the nation state. While in the 1970s the biggest corporation—the US government—also lost the support and belief of its people for the Vietnam War and the Watergate Scandal.

II Economy

In America, the post-World War II years are thought to represent the best economy the US has ever enjoyed. It was a time of low unemployment, a housing boom, and—



in general—a time of great stability for the country's economy.

The 1970s, however, would bring that prosperity to a halt. The economy at that time experienced trouble for a number of reasons.

One of the prime reasons was the Oil Embargo in 1973^①, which had a very serious effect on the American economy. The price of



oil quadrupled in just a short period of time and it was immediately felt at the pumps. Americans had to sit in long lines at the gas stations to fill up their tanks because of a national gas rationing program imposed. As a matter of fact, for a long period of time you could only buy gas every other day, depending on the last number of your license plate. It was a time of great stress for most Americans, particularly for those who depended on their automobile for daily transportation.

Some economists believe that the troubling economy of the 1970s was due to the decline of the work ethic at the end of the 1960s. Crime rates were higher than in previous decades, people spent more time in front of the TV, and divorce was becoming more prevalent. Many believe that a desire to work less and play more contributed to what economists in the 1970s liked to call “stagflation”^②.

Stagflation occurs when inflation and unemployment rate are very high—as they were in the 1970s—and economic growth is quite low. In other words, the economy isn't growing but prices are. The beginnings of stagflation occurred when Nixon imposed wage and price controls in 1971 and persisted through the decade into the 1980s. Unemployment was higher than it had been for quite some time. The average unemployment rate during the first half of the decade was about 5.4 percent and by the second half it soared to just under 8 percent.

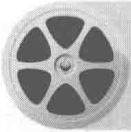
① The 1973 oil crisis began in October 1973 when the members of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries proclaimed an oil embargo. The embargo was targeted at nations perceived as supporting Israel during the Yom Kippur War. The initial nations targeted were Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States with the embargo also later extended to Portugal, Rhodesia and South Africa. By the end of the embargo in March 1974, the price of oil had risen from US\$3 per barrel to nearly \$12 globally; the US prices were significantly higher. The embargo caused an oil crisis, or “shock”, with many short-and long-term effects on global politics and the global economy. It was later called the “first oil shock”, followed by the 1979 oil crisis, termed the “second oil shock”.

② It is an economic condition of both continuing inflation and stagnant business activity, together with an increasing unemployment rate.

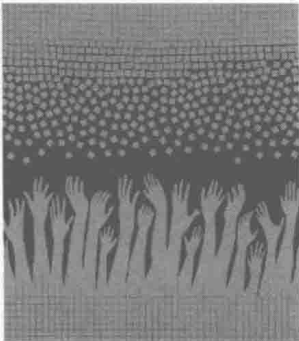
The economy of the 1970s was also marred by a number of large labor strikes and dissatisfaction among workers in a variety of fields. In 1970, more than 200,000 postal workers walked off the job. A year later, a massive longshoreman walk-out closed ports on coasts and in the Gulf of Mexico. It was also during the 1970s that the first legal strike by state workers occurred in Pennsylvania in 1975, involving 80,000 workers. Miners also conducted one of the longest strikes in the history of that industry during the late 1970s.

(Retrieved from <http://classic70s.com/1970s-economy.html>)

* * *



Soylent Green (1973)



SOYLENT GREEN

In 2022, Earth is overpopulated and totally polluted; the natural resources have been exhausted and the nourishment of the population is provided by Soylent Industries...

III Science and Technology



The Apollo Program

The Apollo program, also known as Project Apollo, was the third United States human spaceflight program carried out by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which accomplished landing the first human on the Moon from 1969 to 1972. Apollo was dedicated to President John F. Kennedy's national goal of "landing a man on the Moon and

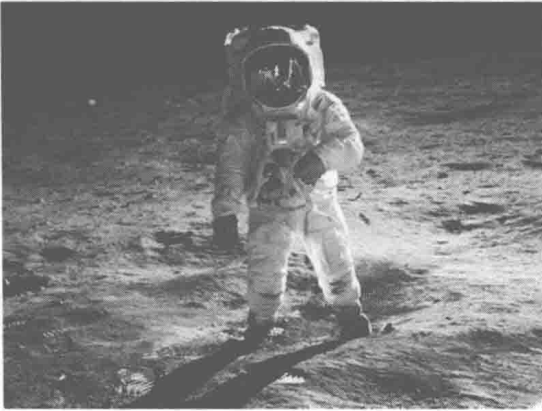
returning him safely to the Earth” by the end of the 1960s, which he proposed in an address to the Congress on May 25, 1961. It was the third US human spaceflight program to fly, preceded by the two-man Project Gemini conceived in 1961 to extend spaceflight capability in support of Apollo.

Kennedy’s goal was accomplished on the Apollo 11 mission when astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed their lunar module (LM) on July 20, 1969, and walked on the lunar

surface, while Michael Collins remained in lunar orbit in the command and service module (CSM), and all three landed safely on Earth on July 24.

Apollo set several major human spaceflight milestones. It stands alone in sending manned missions beyond low Earth orbit. Apollo 8 was the first manned spacecraft to orbit another celestial body, while the final Apollo 17 mission marked the sixth Moon landing and the ninth manned mission beyond low Earth

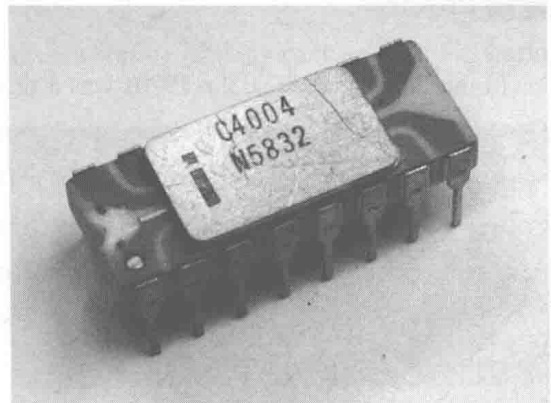
orbit. The program returned 842 pounds of lunar rocks and soil to the Earth, greatly contributing to the understanding of the Moon’s composition and geological history. The program laid the foundation for NASA’s subsequent human spaceflight capability and funded construction of its Johnson Space Center and Kennedy Space Center. Apollo also spurred advances in many areas of technology incidental to rocketry and manned spaceflight, including avionics, telecommunications, and computers.



The First Microprocessor

When Intel brought out the first microprocessor in 1971, the Intel 4004 started the evolution of the home computer. Up until this time most computers were in the hands of fans and scientists with few members of the public really paying attention.

Intel was contracted by Japanese calculator maker Busicom to build a chip to reduce the costs of their calculator. Instead of merely



developing a chip set specifically for use in one machine, the 4004 turned out to be a very early general-purpose programmable chip, capable of much more than mere basic math.

Measuring only 1/8th by 1/6th of an inch it was, according to Intel, one of the smallest microprocessor designs to go into commercial production.

It's hard to believe that something so small could have started something so big.

The First Cell Phone Call

The first handheld mobile phone was demonstrated by John F. Mitchell and Martin Cooper of Motorola in 1973, using a handset weighing 2 kilograms (4.4 lbs). In 1979, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) launched the world's first cellular network in Japan. In 1983, the DynaTAC 8000x was the first commercially available handheld mobile phone.



Apple Computer Company

Apple Inc., the American multinational technology company that designs, develops, and sells consumer electronics, computer software, and online services, is considered one of the Big Four of technology along with Amazon, Google, and Facebook today.

Apple was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and Ronald Wayne in April 1976 to develop and sell Wozniak's Apple I personal computer. It was incorporated as Apple Computer, Inc., in January 1977, and sales of its computers, including the Apple II, grew quickly. Within a few years, Jobs and Wozniak had hired a staff of computer designers and had a production line. Apple went public in 1980 to instant financial success.



Apple Computer

Physics

In the field of physics, the 1970s was a time of great discovery. Renowned physicist Stephen Hawking developed two major theories concerning the nature of the universe in the 1970s, i.e. his theory of the existence of black holes, and his theory on the Big Bang, which was the beginning of the universe some 15 billion years ago. Physicists also had new tools at their disposal with the development of massive experimental machines like CERN's Super Proton Synchrotron, first turned on in 1976. This machine, nearly seven kilometers long, allowed for experiments that tested the nature of matter and antimatter.