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| Genre | Description | Sub genre | Codes | Conventions |
|  | Usually include high energy, big-budget physical stunts and chases, possibly with rescues, battles, fights, escapes, destructive crises, non-stop motion, spectacular rhythm and pacing, and adventurous, often two-dimensional 'good-guy' heroes (or recently, heroines) battling 'bad guys' - all designed for pure audience escapism. |  |  |  |
|  | Light-hearted plots consistently and deliberately designed to amuse and provoke laughter by exaggerating the situation, the language, action, relationships and characters. |  |  |  |
|  | Developed around the sinister actions of criminals or mobsters, particularly bank robbers, underworld figures, or ruthless hoodlums who operate outside the law, stealing and murdering their way through life. Often categorized as [*film noir*](http://www.filmsite.org/filmnoir.html) or [*detective-mystery*](http://www.filmsite.org/mysteryfilms.html) films - because of underlying similarities between these cinematic forms. |  |  |  |
|  | Serious, plot-driven presentations, portraying realistic characters, settings, life situations, and stories involving intense character development and interaction. Usually, they are not focused on special-effects, comedy, or action, |  |  |  |
|  | Major defining genre of the American film industry - a eulogy to the early days of the expansive American frontier. They are one of the oldest, most enduring genres with very recognisable plots, elements, and characters (six-guns, horses, dusty towns and trails, cowboys, Indians, etc.). Have been re-defined, re-invented and expanded, dismissed, re-discovered, and spoofed. |  |  |  |

Genre Studies

Western Crime/Gangster Drama Action Comedy