

# Contents

List of illustrations vi

Acknowledgments x

Introduction 1

## **PART ONE** What is film noir? 9

**1** Genre and the problem of film noir 11

**2** Visual style and narrative themes 34

**3** Genre and gender 57

## **PART TWO** The history of film noir 79

**4** Prehistory and the wartime period, 1939–45 81

**5** The postwar period, 1945–50 103

**6** The late period, 1950–58 129

## **PART THREE** Case study: The veteran problem and postwar film noir 155

**7** The discourse of veteran readjustment 157

**8** The veteran and the readjustment narrative 176

**9** Conformity, community, and citizenship 202

Coda: The end of film noir 225

Bibliography 231

Filmography 244

Index 258