

Cinema 107: Understanding Motion Picture

Section #8062

<https://myetudes.org/portal>

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Course Objective:

To introduce and analyze the elements that make motion picture an art form, including visual composition, color, music, acting, editing, lighting, story and sound through lecture and screenings of classic and contemporary films.

Required Reading:

Film Art: An Introduction Tenth Edition by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson

Recommended Reading:

The Visual Story: Creating the Visual Structure of Film, TV and Digital Media Second Edition by Bruce Block *Additional

*Additional readings posted on ETUDES site.

Once you get the 10th edition of the required textbook, please do visit David Bordwell's blog:

<http://www.davidbordwell.net/filmart/index.php>

Grading:

Attendance:	5%
Participation:	5%
Chapter Quizzes:	4(5) = 20%
Response Papers:	4(5) = 20%

Final Exam of two parts:

Multiple choice: 25% Analysis paper of one movie: 25%

On grades:

Any online class takes discipline. This is no exception. **Attendance, participation and quizzes will account for 30% of your final grade.** If you read the assigned chapters in the book, you should all do well. Please do buy the book from the College Library. I ordered the Tenth Edition for you. We will have the reading questions every other Thursday of every other week (10/31, 11/14, 11/28, 12/12) and will be announced. You will also be required to write **4-response papers based on viewing a movie** (listed in this syllabi). There would be no midterm but one final exam that has two components of equal weight, grade-wise. In the last week of class, you will have the option to choose one of three movies and then prepare a well-written paper of 500-750 words. That is 2-3-pages long. The other component of the final paper will be a multiple-choice...

Student Objectives:

At the completion of the course a student will be able to:

- Recognize and analyze major categories of filmic elements.
- Identify and differentiate among different camera techniques and their effect on the

viewer.

- Interpret the effects of editing and sound on narrative story telling.
- Explain the use of color and lighting and their abilities to shape the mood and tone of a movie.
- Recognize the story elements that comprise narrative film form.

SCHEDULE:

All readings are from our required textbook → **FILM ART: An Introduction**, Tenth Edition. Bordwell & Thomson. McGraw Hill. 2013

Week 1 – Mon. 10/21 – Sat. 10/26

Readings → Chapter 1. **Film As Art**. Pages: 9-16

Terms: Frames. Persistence of vision. Apparent Motion.

Is film art? How does it differ from other arts such as painting and music?

Readings → Chapter 9. **Film Genres**. Pages: 329-349

After reading this chapter, you will know about film genres (such as Western, horror and musical).

Movie to watch:

D.W. Griffith's A Birth of A Nation.

You will write a response paper on it. We will also discuss about it. Remember discussion is part of attendance and participation in this virtual class.

Week 2 – Sun. 10/27 – Sat. 11/02

Readings → Chapter 2. **Film Form**. Pages: 50-71

Terms: Form. Content. Unity.

Movie to watch:

Battleship Potemkin (1925) by Sergei Eisenstein.

Week 3 – Sun. 11/03- Sat. 11/09

Readings → Chapter 3. **Narrative Form**. Pages: 72-98 & pages: 103-110

Terms: Narrative. Plot and story. Cause and effect. Space. Flashback

Movie to watch:

M (1931) by Fritz Lang

Week 4 – Sun. 11/10- Sat. 11/16

Readings → Chapter 4. **Mise-en-scene**. Pages: 111-158

Terms: Mise-en-scene. Realism. Setting. Costume and Make-up. Three-point-lighting.

Low-key lighting.

Movie to watch:

Stagecoach (1939) by John Ford

*** MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 5 - Sun. 11/17- Sat. 11/23

Readings → Chapter 5. Cinematography. Pages: 160-196

Terms: Contrast. Exposure. Speed of motion. Frame rate. Perspective. The Lens. Focal Length. Depth of field. Racking/pulling focus. Aspect ratio. Angle and level. Distance (long, medium and close)

Movie to watch:

Citizen Kane (1941) by Orson Wells

Week 6 – Sun. 11/24- Sat. 11/30

Readings → Chapter 6. Editing. Pages: 218-264

After reading this chapter, you will be able to understand the meaning of editing and the terms used for it such as these: cut, fade-in, fade-out, elliptical editing, overlapping editing, cutaway and insert, the 180 system, the POV shot, crosscutting and so forth.

Featured films:

The Maltese Falcon, Rear Window, October.

Movie to watch:

The Bicycle Thief (1948) by Vittorio De Sica

Week 7 – Sun. 12/01- Sat. 12/07

Readings → Chapter 11. Film Criticism. Pages: 402-449

Terms: Plot & counter plot. Suspense & surprise. Breaking with tradition.

Featured films:

His girl Friday. North by Northwest. Do the Right Thing. Breathless.

Movie to watch:

Rashomon (1950) by Akira Kurosawa

Week 8 – Sun. 12/08- Sat. 12/14

Readings → Chapter 7. The Power of Sound. Pages: 266-307

To maximum your time for the final, go through Chapter 7 quickly and just find the meaning of these sound terms: dialogue overlap, rhythm, fidelity, simultaneous sound and non-simultaneous sound, and sound bridge. Then start watching the movie of the week. In addition to the new terms and watching two movies, we will do some review for the final exam.

Movie to watch:

The Wizard of Oz (1939) by Victor Fleming

You will also be assigned to **Watch one** of three movies to write your final paper on:

*FINAL EXAM:

These three movies will be revealed to you seven days prior to the final exam on it. Exam will open on 12/13 and close on 12/15.