

Englit 0400
Summer 2007
Murray, K.

Introduction to Film

Kathleen Murray
EngLit 0400-1015
Summer 2
M-W 1:00-4:50
207 David Lawrence Hall

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You already know how to watch movies. You already watch them in a variety of contexts: in the theatre, at home, with family, with friends, on the TV and on the computer. This class offers a different context. During the course of *Introduction to Film*, we will be learning new ways of understanding, analyzing and appreciating movies. Through examining film history, technical terminology, major films, and different approaches to studying the movies, we will begin to build a strong basis and vocabulary for thinking about film.

Text:

Richard Barsam, *Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film*, 2nd Ed.
New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2007.

The text is available at the bookstore and on Amazon. In addition to the primary text, there will be several short articles that I will distribute throughout the term.

Requirements:

Short Quizzes and Class Participation 50%
1 short paper – 5-10 pages 20%
1 Final Exam 30%

Due to the intense compression of the summer term, it is imperative that you do not miss class. We will be moving fast and each element inevitably builds upon the last, despite my seemingly discreet class titles. While there will not necessarily be a quiz every class, be prepared for it. The quizzes will be based on the reading, the films, my lectures, and class discussion. Taking rich and extensive notes during class and of the movies is *strongly* recommended. As you can see, a full *half* of your final grade is based on your attendance. If you are not here you will not be able to participate nor take the quiz. **There will be no make-up quizzes.** If you miss a class for any reason, you will be expected to do the reading and watch the film on your own.

The short paper (5-10 pages) will consist of independent research on a film that we have not watched in its entirety in class from a list that I will provide. Any movie that I show a clip of will be fair game. I will expect you to develop a thesis and use the terms we have explored in class. In addition, you will be required to use outside scholarly sources to develop and support your ideas. Early in the term you will turn in a one page paper proposal for my approval.

The final exam will be held on the last day of class and will be cumulative.

The Films:

All the movies on the syllabus are available on DVD for rent or can be watched in the library. Watching these films closely and thoughtfully is an integral part of the class. They are assignments to be taken seriously, but also enjoyed.

- Buy them: All of the films are available on DVD and cost less than \$20 on Amazon.com.
- Watch them at Hillman Library: There is at least one copy of each film at the Media Resource Center located on the ground floor of Hillman. To get there, go inside Cup & Chaucer and follow the sign to the right. Give the attendant the name and number (the DVD number in the list above) of the film you want to see. You have to watch the film there on one of their monitors during their regular hours (they close at 8:30 pm every day but Friday when they close at 5 pm).
- Rent them: Try these nearby video stores:
 - Dreaming Ant**, Oakland, 406 Craig Street, 2nd Floor, (412) 683-2200
And Bloomfield, 4525 Liberty Ave, (inside Crazy Mocha), (412) 683-7326
 - Classic Video**, Shadyside, 735 Copeland St, (412) 621-3232
 - Heads Together**, Squirrel Hill, 2127 Murray Ave, (412) 521-3700
 - Netflix.com**

OBJECTIONABLE FILM CONTENT!!

Some of the films selected for this section of Introduction to Film are of decidedly mature themes and contain what may be considered objectionable or offensive violence, language, and/or sexual content. If you foresee objections to such content, you should discuss the matter with me immediately or enroll in another Introduction to Film section.

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890 or (412) 383-7355(TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Course Schedule:

<p>Monday, June 25th: Introduction: What does it mean to take a film class?</p> <p><i>Wizard of Oz</i> (Victor Fleming, 1939) 103 minutes</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 27th: History and Groundwork: What can early cinema, and early cinematic movements show us?</p> <p>Early Cinema and Soviet Cinema Shorts, Muybridge, Lumiere Brothers, Melies, Eisenstein, Vertov, Chaplin, and Keaton.</p> <p>Read Chapter 1 “What is a Movie?” for Today</p>
<p>Monday, July 2nd: Plot, Story, and Time: How do all the bits become a movie?</p> <p><i>Silence of the Lambs</i> (Jonathan Demme, 1991) 118 mins</p> <p>Chapter 2, “Form and Narrative.”</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 4th Class Cancelled</p>
<p>Monday, July 9th Genre: I know it when I see it...or do I?</p> <p><i>Blade Runner</i> (Ridley Scott, 1982) 117 mins</p> <p>Chapter 8, “Writing about Movies.” Read Rick Altman, “A Semantic Syntactic Approach to Film Genre.” 1 page paper proposal due</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 11th: Acting, Stars, and Performance: What’s the difference?</p> <p><i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest</i> (Milos Foreman, 1975) 134 mins</p> <p>Read Chapter 5, “Acting.” Alan Lovell, “I Went in Search of Deborah Kerr, Jodie Foster and Julianne Moore But Got Waylaid,” in <i>Contemporary Hollywood Stardom</i>.</p>

<p>Monday, July 16th Cinematography: How we feel what we see</p> <p><i>In the Mood for Love</i> (Wong Kar Wai, 2000) 98 mins</p> <p>Read Chapter 4, "Cinematography."</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 18th: Film Sound: I'll believe it when I hear it and Combinations, Juxtapositions, and Continuity: The fine art of editing</p> <p><i>Delicatessen</i> (Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 1991) 100 mins</p> <p>Read Chapter 6, "Editing" and Chapter 7, "Sound."</p>
<p>Monday, July 23th Documentary and Experimental Film: Truth, Reality, Politics, and Entertainment</p> <p>Stan Brakhage <i>Harlan County, USA</i> (Barbara Kopple, 1976) 104 mins</p> <p>Reading TBA</p>	<p>Wednesday, July 25th: The Auteur: Who creates the movies we love?</p> <p><i>North by Northwest</i> (Alfred Hitchcock, 1959) 136 mins</p> <p>Reading TBA</p>
<p>Monday, July 30st : Some Major Film Movements: What do they mean when they say the French New Wave/Italian Neorealism/Classic Hollywood/Direct Cinema/Indie Film....?</p> <p><i>Blow Up</i> (Michelangelo Antonioni, 1966) 111 mins</p> <p>Reading TBA</p>	<p>Wednesday, August 1nd Final Exam!!!</p>
<p>Final Paper DUE Friday, August 3rd</p>	