

EngLit 0530
Spring 2004
Andersen, K.

Film Analysis
ENGLIT 0530
Spring 2004
M & W 12 - 4:50 pm

Instructor: Kara L. Andersen
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Office hour:
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Text

Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. *Film Art: An Introduction*. 7th Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2004.

Course Description



Film Analysis introduces students to the critical study of cinema as an art form; it is a challenging, intensive course designed specifically for students with a strong commitment to film studies. Film Analysis sets the foundation for further study in film, providing concepts and vocabulary essential for thinking and writing seriously about cinema. Emphasis will be placed on the interaction between film technique (mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, sound) and film narrative (the stories motion pictures tell). One goal of the course is to have students develop skills that will enable them to experience film as a complex art capable of multiple modes of expression, where critical analysis can help to uncover pleasure even in the unfamiliar or the off-putting. To that end, we will explore a wide range of film types, including silent, foreign and animated films.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. With only six weeks, every class is crucial. As this is a discussion-based class, your participation is important. **If you miss even one class without a documented excuse, your grade will be affected by a portion of a letter grade. Missing more than 2 classes (excused or unexcused) is grounds for immediate failure.** If you know you have to miss a class for a legitimate reason (such as a religious holiday, documented sports absence or personal illness), it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and discuss with me how to make up the work. If you do not have a documented excuse, you cannot make up missed work.

Tardiness

I expect everyone to be *on time*. If you are not in the classroom when I take roll you will be marked late. Every three late marks count as one absence. If you miss more than fifteen minutes of a class you will be marked absent. No arguments, no exceptions.



Late Work

I do not accept late work. You must turn in assignments on the day they are due. If you know you are going to miss a class when an assignment is due, either turn the assignment in early or arrange for someone else to turn it in for you. Missed quizzes can be made up only in the case of religious holidays, sports absences, or with a doctor's note. If you are having problems (personal or academic) and need an extension on a homework assignment, talk to me before the deadline to see what arrangements can be made. Computer problems are not an excuse. Always save your work frequently and do not wait until the last minute to print.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please let both me and Disability Resources and Services (DRS) know as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.¹

Academic Honesty

I expect complete honesty from students when it comes to their work. Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. **Anyone caught cheating on any assignment (no matter how small) will immediately fail the class.** Want to learn more about how to avoid plagiarism and cite works correctly? Go to:

<http://www.english.pitt.edu/resources/plagiarism.html>

Want to know more about what happens if you're caught? Go to:

<http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html>

Grading

The grading system is a 100 point scale. The breakdown of assignments is as follows:

Individual Assignments:

Final Exam:	40
Midterm:	20
Scene Analyses (4):	5 (each)
Viewing notes	10
Participation & other homework:	10



Final Grades:

90-100:	A range
80-89:	B range
70-79:	C range
60-69:	D range
Below 60:	F



¹ DRS can be reached at 216 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890/(412) 383-7355 (TTY).

Course Calendar

Date	Class schedule	Homework
Week 1: What is Film? Monday, May 10	<i>Singin' in the Rain</i>	Read Chapter 1
Wednesday May 12	<i>The Player</i>	Read Chapters 2-3 Scene analysis 1
Week 2: Form and Narrative Monday, May 17	<i>Citizen Kane</i>	
Wednesday, May 19	<i>Psycho</i>	Read Chapters 4-5 Scene analysis 2
Week 3: Genre, Animation, Experimentation Monday, May 24	<i>Kiss Me Deadly</i>	Take-home Midterm
Wednesday, May 26	<i>Akira, Ballet Mecanique</i>	Read Chapters 6-7
Week 4: Mise-en-scène and Cinematography Monday, May 31	Memorial Day - no class	
Wednesday, June 2	<i>Bamboozled, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, Blade Runner</i>	Read Chapter 8 Scene analysis 3
Week 5: Editing, Sound and Style Monday, June 7	<i>Battleship Potemkin, The Sixth Sense</i>	Read Chapters 9-10
Wednesday, June 9	<i>The Conversation, The Lady Vanishes, Modern Times, Blue</i>	Read Ch. 11-12 Scene analysis 4
Week 6: Film Analysis and History Monday June 14	<i>Bicycle Thief</i>	Take-home final
Wednesday, June 16	<i>Chungking Express</i>	