

FIL 2030 - History of Motion Pictures

Submitted by Chris Harris

Assignment type: Open (paper, discussion post, etc.)

Topic covered: The relationship between film form and drama in classical cinema

Outcome: Students will watch motion pictures analytically and with purpose. They will develop the ability to deconstruct a film for the parts of its form and content.

Question: For this assignment I have posted three film sequences that feature the use of crosscutting. Your task is to select one of these sequences and write a 200-250 word response that explains how you would alter its editing in order to *decrease* the dramatic tension without removing or adding any shots. Be very specific about how you would rearrange the order of specific shots and utilize course vocabulary in your response.

Submitted by Bob Jones

1. Topic Covered: The impact of immigrants on American Cinema

Write a 250 word essay on the impact of immigrants on American Cinema. Use specific examples to support your observations. Use course vocabulary in your essay to accurately articulate your ideas and put all course vocabulary in **bold**.

2. Topic Covered: The Growth of American cinema

Write a 250 word essay on the two most important factors that spurred the growth of American cinema. Use specific examples to support your observations. Use course vocabulary in your essay to accurately articulate your ideas and put all course vocabulary in bold.

3. Topic covered: The influence of German Expressionism on American cinema

Write a 250 word essay describing the influence of German Expressionism on American film in the Film Noir genre. Use one specific example from a film cited to support your observation. Use course vocabulary in your post to accurately articulate your ideas and put all course vocabulary in **bold**.

4. Topic covered: Censorship and the American Cinema

Write a 250 word essay on the effects of The Production Code and the Blacklist upon American cinema. Use specific examples to support your observations. Use course vocabulary in your essay to accurately articulate your ideas and put all course vocabulary in **bold**.

Submitted by Kate Shults

1. Assignment type: Discussion Post

Topic covered: Early cinema's connection to the Digital Age

For this assignment, your task is to prove to a hypothetical friend that there is a distinct similarity between the content of the very first films ever made and the kinds of videos, gifs, and vines that people share with each other every day online.

Post an active link to a video, vine, or gif that illustrates a connection you have observed between the *content* of early cinema and the content of today's Internet culture. Along with the video provide a 200 to 250-word rationale to your classmates describing how the video you've posted illustrates this connection.

Comment on one of your group members' posts that you agree with and push their conversation forward by adding to the discussion.

Comment on one post where the connection isn't clear to you. Ask the author a question about their post that will clarify your understanding. Questions must be focused on the idea of their post.

2. Assignment type: Discussion Post

Topic covered: The influence of German Expressionism on American cinema

In 200-250 words compare a scene or sequence from the film *Citizen Kane* [or replace this film with an American film noir] to its roots in German Expressionism. Use a specific example from the film cited to support your observation. Use course vocabulary in your post to accurately articulate your ideas and put all course vocabulary in **bold**.

Comment on one of your group members' posts that you agree with and push their conversation forward by adding to the discussion.

Comment on one post where the connection isn't clear to you. Ask the author a question about their post that will clarify your understanding. Questions must be focused on the idea of their post.

3. Assignment type: Discussion Post

Topic covered: The auteur theory and critical reflections on personal tastes

Not every director can truly be called an *auteur*, however we can still observe stylistic, thematic, or narrative traits that appear and re-appear in the films of

directors we admire. For this discussion post, think about a director you would like to make a film based on your life story. Think about an aspect of their style that you have observed in more than one of their films and how that might impact the film they would make about you and your life.

Write a discussion post for someone who has never heard of this director or seen their films. In 200-250 words describe ONE trait about the director's filmmaking style that you have observed and discuss how that trait would be used in your biography film. Make sure to mention the movies by this director that you've seen and use course vocabulary to describe your observations as accurately as possible. All course vocabulary used should be in **bold**.

Comment on one of your group members' posts that you agree with and push their conversation forward by adding to the discussion.

Comment on one post where the connection isn't clear to you. Ask the author a question about their post that will clarify your understanding. Questions must be focused on the idea of their post.

4. Assignment type: Discussion Post **Topic covered: Film as History**

Reflect on the history of cinema we've covered thus far and your personal relationship with moving image media today (films, tv, internet videos, etc.). What is the significance of learning about the history of motion pictures in linear, chronological order? Consider that all films exist for us in the present tense; in other words, we are able to watch any movies we want at any time, in any order. Couldn't we learn about film history organized by themes, technology, genres, or some other approach?

In 200-250 words, discuss the pros and cons of learning about history in chronological order and propose an alternative way of learning these course materials. What are the benefits of your new approach? Use a specific example from the course materials to explain your idea.

After posting your entry, take a moment to respond to two entries posed by your classmates and push their ideas forward by adding to the conversation.

FIL 1000 - Cinema Survey

Submitted by Chris Harris

1. Using the correct terminology, explain in 200-250 words what type of lens, depth-of-field, lighting and camera movement you might choose to film a scene involving two lovers who have not seen one another in a long time and are now finally alone. Explain the rationale for your choices.