

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Winter Interim
December 17, 1999 - ~~January 7~~, ZM
Kaneohe Campus

COURSE: Drama 201 ← Introduction to Motion Pictures & Television

CREDITS: 3 Credits

LOCATION: Kaneohe MCBH - Bldg. 219

TIME: Term Dates: Dec. 17, 20, 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, Jan. 3, 5 & 7
Weekdays from 1730 - 2140, Saturdays from 0800 - 1210

INSTRUCTOR: Steven Jones

COMMUNICATIONS: Telephone: 739-0167(evenings), 839-9885 ext. 13(daytime)
[Email: sheathj@aol.com](mailto:sheathj@aol.com)

TEXTBOOK: Giannetti, Louis. 1999, *Understanding Movies*, Upper
Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. 8th Edition.

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION:

A study of the aesthetic and technical aspects of motion pictures and television, with emphasis on the film making elements.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

- to make students more aware of how television and movies convey meaning,
- to help students understand how the medium of film influences society's values;
- to introduce students to the various language systems filmmakers use to communicate to an audience;
- to familiarize students with the realism-formalism dichotomy that exists in cinema;
- to acquaint students with the critical, industry and **technical** terms associated with filmmaking.

CLASS FORMAT:

This **course** is not designed **primarily** as a lecture course, but rather as an interactive **learning** experience in which all students **are** expected to actively participate. **Chapters** of the textbook will be assigned in advance for homework. It is very important that all students read the assigned chapters prior to class and come well prepared to discuss the material as an informed and knowledgeable participant. This course uses a **variety** of approaches including general class discussion, small group work, video viewing, and student presentations (in the form of "conversation" participation - see handout for specific details).

REQUIREMENTS:

1. regular and prompt class attendance;
2. thoughtful and active participation in class discussions and activities;
3. **completion of required readings assignments prior** to each class **meeting**;
4. an in-class presentation in the form of a "conversation" with the instructor (see handout for specific details);
5. a **critical** film analysis focusing on at least five of the various language systems used by **filmmakers** to convey meaning (see handout for specific details);
6. completion of **the final** exam during the final class session.

GRADING:

The grading will be based on:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. class attendance | 20% |
| 2. class participation/homework | 20% |
| 3. in-class presentation | 20% |
| 4. critical film analysis | 20% |
| 5. final exam | 20% |

A=90-100, B = **80-89**, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 0-59, 1= **Incomplete**

LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENT:

All students' work will be evaluated for:

- knowledge of the subject matter from textbook, class lectures, discussion, video viewing, **resources** from research and class activities;
- ability to provide relevant examples to support viewpoints;
- clarity and logical presentation;
- ability to apply **knowledge** to understand and critically analyze the medium of film.

SCHEDULE
Drama 201- **Introduction** to Motion Pictures & Television
Winter Interim 1999/2000

Text: Giannetti, Louis. 1999, *Understanding Movies*, Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. 8th Edition

Friday, 12/17	Course orientation and discussion of requirements Language systems of film
Monday, 12/20	Photography Film: <i>Citizen Kane</i> Reading Assignment: Chapter 1
Wednesday, 12/22	Mise En Scene Film: <i>Legends of the Fall</i> Reading Assignment: Chapter 2
Thursday, 12/23	Movement Film: <i>Apocalypse Now</i> Reading Assignment: Chapter 3
Monday, 12/27	Editing Film: <i>Raiders of the Lost Ark</i> Reading Assignment: Chapter 4
Wednesday, 12/29	Sound Film: <i>Amadeus</i> Reading Assignment: Chapter 5
Thursday, 12/30	Acting and Drama Film: <i>Silence of the Lambs</i> Reading Assignment: Chapters 6 & 7
Monday, 1/3	Story Film: <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> Reading Assignment: Chapter 8
Wednesday, 1/5	Writing Film: <i>The Last Emperor</i> Reading Assignment: Chapter 9
Friday, 1/7	Final Exam Ideology and Theory Reading Assignment: Chapters 10 & 11 Critical Film Analysis Due

The Language Systems of Film

Guide for "Conversations" - Student Presentations

Instead of an instructor lecture or a student report (i.e. lecture) on the various language systems of film, we're going to attempt a "conversation" on each. The conversation will consist of three components: (a) an opening 10 -12 minute introduction of the language system by the student or students assigned to **that particular** system; (b) a discussion of the language system between the instructor and the **student** or students presenting. This discussion will occur "fish bowl" style with the rest of the class **listening** in and taking notes; (c) a group discussion with the entire class actively participating.

To prepare for **his/her presentation/conversation**, each student should use the overview section - placed at the beginning of each chapter - as **his/her** guide for exploration and research of the text. The overviews provide a comprehensive listing of the most **important** elements of the chapter. These are the **elements** that I will be using to engage our conversations. Be familiar with them.

The student or **students** presenting will have become somewhat of **the** expert on the language system at hand. Even though they are **presenting/conversing** for the benefit of the entire class, this does not exempt the members of the class from reading the assigned material prior to the presentation/conversation and preparing themselves for the discussion that follows. Remember: the last **component** in the process is a group discussion with everyone actively involved.

Each student or pair of students assigned to a particular language system must **create** a handout to be distributed to each member of the class at the time of the presentation.

This handout should contain any important **information** - from your assigned chapter - that you feel is worth focusing on and would be of most relevant value to the class. The handout should be one to two pages in **length**. It should be typed or in a word processed form. Please bring enough copies of the handout so that each member of the class may receive one.

Finally - in addition to the handout that you are to **distribute** to the class, I am requiring that each presentation **utilize** at least one other **form of** visual aid. This may be any of the following: **charts**, diagrams, drawings, photographs, overhead transparencies, or video. If you **are extremely** adventurous, feel free to use a powerpoint presentation. If you have other ideas for this other visual aid, please check with me.

Most importantly - BE CREATIVE AND INTERESTING!

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Guidelines for Critical Film Analysis

Each student should select one of the films that will be viewed in class and write a critical analysis of this film. The film should be analyzed using at least five of the eleven language systems of film that are **presented** in the textbook and were discussed in class. These systems should be the lens through which you examine the film you have selected. Chapter 12 of the textbook is an **examination** of the film *Citizen Kane*. Each of the eleven language systems is used in this analysis; therefore, you may use this as a model for your own paper. Please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. All papers should be typed or in a word-processed form.
2. All papers should include a title page with the student's name, course, **instructor** and term dates.
3. All **papers** should be **double-spaced**.
4. Gianetti's *Understanding Movies* should be used as the primary resource; however, direct quotes should be **kept** to a minimum.
5. If other resources are used, they should be clearly documented internally (e.g. author, page #), and they should be indicated on a Works Cited page at the end of your document.
- b. The paper should be a minimum of five pages and maximum of ten pages.
7. ~~All papers should be submitted at the beginning of the last class period - Friday,~~
January 7, 2000.
8. Papers will not be accepted **after** the submission deadline.

Please Note:

This paper should not be a summary of the action or a re-telling of what happened in the **film**. I have seen these films, and I know the stories. I am only interested in your analysis of how meaning was conveyed through the various language systems. If you are having a difficult time getting started, ask yourself this question:

What was the director of the film trying to communicate, and what language system was used to say **it**?