

Film Analysis – Winter 2025

Week 1: Study - Mise-en-Scène

Focus: Understand the elements of mise-en-scène (set design, lighting, costume, staging, and composition) and how they convey meaning.

Activities

Citizen Kane (1941)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUX11EQ7ICA>

Wes Anderson, analyse visual style.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCaMMfp8C10>

Discuss: How do props, costumes, and framing enhance storytelling?

Assignment: Select a scene from a film of your choice to analyse its mise-en-scène for next week's presentation.

Week 2: Presentation - Mise-en-Scène Analysis

Focus: Present your analysis of a chosen film scene, focusing on how mise-en-scène elements contribute to mood, theme, or character.

Activities:

Prepare a 5-7 minute presentation with clips or stills.

Discuss as a group (if applicable): Compare different films' use of mise-en-scène.

Example Films: Blade Runner 2049 (2017), Amélie (2001).

Week 3: Study – Cinematography

Focus - Cinematography: Explore camera techniques (shot types, angles, movement, framing, and depth of field) and their narrative impact.

Cinematography Activities

Children of Men (2006) for long takes,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKmlIIK6Md0>

POV shots.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLCQAmTleP0>

Dune – Denis Villeneuve - pure beauty as image – technical breakdown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezXcNl2Bla8>

Discuss: How does camera work shape audience perspective?

Assignment: Choose a scene to analyse its cinematography for the next week.

Week 4: Presentation – Cinematography

Focus: Present how cinematography techniques in your chosen scene enhance storytelling or emotion.

Activities:

Share visual examples and explain choices like lens selection or camera movement.

Group discussion: Compare cinematographic styles across genres.

Example Films: 1917 (2019), Dune Pt1/2, Blade Runner 2049

Week 5: Editing

Focus - Editing: Learn about editing techniques (continuity editing, montage, pacing, transitions) and their role in narrative flow.

Psycho (1960)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeLjQ7qcNN8>

Whiplash (2014) brilliant musical editing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKju6NvIKa0>

General editing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVR8zz8ci2k>

Discuss: How does editing manipulate time and audience emotion? Think of quick/slow, linear/non linear

Assignment: Select a scene/s to analyse editing techniques.

Week 6: Presentation - Editing

Focus: Present how editing shapes the narrative or emotional impact of your chosen scene.

Activities:

Use timestamps to highlight specific cuts or sequences.

Discuss: How do different editing styles (e.g., fast-paced vs. slow) affect viewer experience?

Example Films: Mad Max: Fury Road (2015), Whiplash.

Week 7: Study - Sound Design

Focus: Explore diegetic vs. non-diegetic sound, sound effects, music, and silence in creating atmosphere and meaning.

Activities:

No Country for Old Men (2007) for minimalism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rINw1M6mQSU>

Drive

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFU3FQh3xgE>

Diegetic and non Diegetic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vlwm4VyyTc>

Discuss: How does sound influence audience perception without visuals?

Assignment: Choose a scene to analyze its sound design.

Week 8: Presentation - Sound Design Analysis

Focus: Present how sound elements in your chosen scene enhance the narrative or mood.

Activities

Play audio clips or mute visuals to isolate sound's impact.

Discuss: Compare sound design across different directors or eras.

Example Films: A Quiet Place (2018), Star Wars: Episode IV(1977).

Week 9: Study - The Role of Film Music

Focus: Understand the functions of film music, including establishing mood, enhancing narrative, and supporting character development.

Activities (90 minutes):

Watch Clips (30 min): Analyze scenes from

Jaws (1975) for John Williams' suspenseful score classical

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSYDsrX65m0>

Sicario (2015) The Beast, Johan Johansson semi classical

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTedsOULqX0>

Drive – Synthwave

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8k2AMDvugzw&list=RD8k2AMDvugzw&start_radio=1

Note how music shapes emotional tone or pacing.

Discuss/Reflect (30 min): Consider questions like: How does music guide audience emotions?

How do different genres (e.g., orchestral vs. electronic) affect a film's tone? If solo, journal your thoughts; if in a group, discuss examples.

Assignment: Select a film scene (5 - 10 minutes) to analyze how its music contributes to mood, narrative, or character. Prepare for next week's presentation.

Example Films for Analysis: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back (1980) for leitmotifs,

Drive (2011) for atmospheric use of silence then dark synths

Elevator scene

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xKq3a_QYb8

Week 10: Presentation - Film Music Analysis

Focus: Present your analysis of how music in your chosen scene enhances the cinematic experience, focusing on its emotional, thematic, or narrative impact. Activities (90 minutes):

Presentation (10-20 min): Show your selected scene (with sound) and explain how the music functions. Highlight specific moments (e.g., a crescendo, a recurring motif) and their effect on the audience. Use timestamps or stills to support your points.

Discussion/Q&A (30-40 min): If in a group, compare analyses (e.g., how music differs in action vs. drama). If solo, write a short reflection on what you learned from your analysis and how it compares to other films.

Wrap-Up (30 min): Watch another group's scene (or a new clip, like from *Inception* (2010) or *Interstellar* for Hans Zimmer's score) and discuss how music styles vary across films. Example Films: *La La Land* (2016) for thematic integration, *Psycho* (1960) for iconic string, Barbie for modern pop, Drive Synthwave, LOTR classical/folk...