LANGUAGE OF FILM
FILMSTUD 4S
Summer 2016

Prof. Pavle Levi

Location: McMurtry Building, Rm 102

Time: Fridays, 10:30am - 1:20pm

This course will familiarize students with various elements of film style and form (mise-en-scène, cinematography, editing, sound, etc.) and introduce them to a range of techniques of audio-visual analysis. Different types of films (narrative, documentary, and experimental) will be surveyed. Classical narrative cinema will be compared with alternative modes of story-telling.

Texts
- Selection of essays

Course Requirements
- First paper, 4 pages (mise-en-scene analysis)
- Second paper, 6 - 7 pages (“open” topic)
- In-Class Final Exam

- Attendance in lectures is required; irregular attendance will negatively affect your final grade
- Class participation will help improve your final grade
- Readings are to be completed by the date listed on the syllabus

ALL assignments must be completed in order to get a passing grade for the course:

ABSOLUTELY NO laptops, tablets, phones, etc. are to be used during film screenings!

Students with Documented Disabilities
Students who have a disability which may necessitate an academic accommodation or the use of auxiliary aids and services in a class, must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). The SDRC will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend appropriate accommodations, and prepare a verification letter dated in the current academic term in which the request is being made. Please contact the SDRC as soon as possible; timely notice is needed to arrange for appropriate accommodations. The Office of Accessible Education is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066; TDD: 725-1067).
June 24
Introduction – Mise-en-Scene

Screening
Selection of Lumiere and Edison shorts
*Trip to the Moon* (Georges Melies, 1902)
*The Rink* (Charlie Chaplin, 1916)

Read
*LM*, chapter 5 & pp.409-420

---

Watch for 7/1
*Citizen Kane* (Orson Welles, 1941)

July 1
Mise-en-Scene, cont. - Cinematography

Read
*LM*, chapter 6 & pp.424-430
Andre Bazin, “The Evolution of the Language of Cinema”

---

July 8
Editing

Screening
*Battleship Potemkin* (Sergei Eisenstein, 1927)

Read
*LM*, chapter 8, pp.420-424
Sergei Eisenstein, “A Dialectical Approach to Film Form”
Dziga Vertov, “Kino-Eye” (excerpts)

First Paper Due

---

Watch for 7/15
*Do the Right Thing* (Spike Lee, 1989)

July 15
Sound - Acting/Performance in Fiction and Documentary Cinema

Screening
*Jerry’s* (Tom Palazzolo, 1974)

Read
*LM*, chapters 7 & 9; pp.73-77, 468-474

---

July 22
Elements of Narrative

Screening
*Rear Window* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1954)

Read
*LM*, pp.68-72 & chapter 4
Watch for 7/29  *Vertigo* (Hitchcock, 1959)

**July 29**  Authorship – Politics of the Gaze

**Screening**  *Les Mistons* (Francois Truffaut, 1957)

**Read**  *LM*, pp.430-433, 85-111
Peter Wollen, “The Auteur Theory”

**Aug 5**  TBA

**Second Paper Due**