

Advanced English: Analyze This: Introduction to film analysis

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This course is meant for students of the advanced C1 and C2 levels. Theme-based language classes aim at developing written and oral skills through the study of a specific topic.

Course Objectives

This is a 12-week course that will introduce students to the fundamentals of film analysis over twelve weeks. Throughout the semester, we will explore film style through its formal aspects (montage, cinematography, sound ...) and different narrative techniques.

The main objectives of this course are:

- Introducing students to the basic tools of film analysis
- Providing the tools for better visual literacy
- Expanding students' knowledge of film history.

Background

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of film analysis. It operates on the premise that before students can explore more complex facets of film studies such as advanced theory, they must first develop expertise in analyzing the basic elements of film form and style. The course will devote several weeks to building a precise vocabulary to describe mise-en-scène and cinematography in film with the goal that you will learn to trace the function of style and form within a scene and across a film.

Course Description

The intention is both to provide students with the necessary terminology to analyze films, while also exposing them to the evolution of film style throughout history. The class will begin with the silent era before moving on to more contemporary works, taking examples from a wide array of sources ranging from Hollywood to the avant-garde. Each time, focus will be laid on how these individual texts use form and technique to produce meaning. Students will be expected to present readings to the class and provide a written shot-by-shot analysis of a film clip. Readings will be provided and class participation will also be encouraged.

The ultimate goal of the class is to provide students with sharper analytical skills, a sense of cinematic “grammar” and a broad sense of film history.

Organization

Activities will cover the four language skills:

- Speaking: presentations of the week's readings
- Writing: a shot-by-shot analysis and final test
- Listening: discussions, screenings and final test
- Reading: weekly readings and final test.