**October 1, 2018**

*Dec 17th* - Voluntary meeting or film screening

Sometime next week – presentation topic options.

Midterms – (probably) last week of October

*What kind of exam are we taking?* – Kind of several sentences… Really few questions 3 or 4, must answer with multiple sentences, combine things we learned, things we watched in the movies.

Things we learned + Movie + My opinion.

**Example.** *What is the major conflict in the movie, and why? Discuss the movie’s motif, themes, sound, editing.*

You can repeat what professor said in the class. Exam about how much information you got. Not required to memorize everything.

**Movie Clip – Inception**

Still image of sea. Movie is optical illusion – series of slightly different static images, shown in succession, really fast.

Film stock (film strip) – traditional film format

**Definition.** *A* **frame** *is a single still image which, shown in rapid succession, make up a motion picture. Also referred to the rectangular area within which the film image is composed by the film-maker; what we see within the screen.*

Sometimes the term on-screen/off-screen are used. It divides the area where we can and cannot see.

We are watching things in a different perspective. Many cameras are viewing objects from each of its perspectives. (Waves, Cobb, children) It continuously changes throughout the whole movie. These small continuous parts that are unbroken by camera changes, are called **shots**. They are the small moving units of a film. And a combination of lot of shots make up a **scene**.

**Definition.** *A* **shot** *is a single, continuous series of frames uninterrupted by editing or cut.*

**Definition.** *A* **scene** *is a shot or series of shots that together comprise a single, complete and unified dramatic event, action or element of film narration.*

Scene is the smallest unit that contains an event. (Standard criterion) You should be able to describe what happens in a scene.

**Question.** *How would you describe the prologue part of the movie? How does the movie start?*

It makes no sense at all. Cobb and an old man are talking about something we don’t know.

Cobb waking up on the beach and being found, Cobb talking to the old man (Saito).

Should this be considered as two scenes? What would be a **sequence**? You can call a lot of things sequence, because it is literally a series of things. A series of shots, which is more or less than a scene, can be called a sequence. It is a very convenient term.

**Definition.** *A* **sequence** *is a scene or connected series of related scenes that comprise a single, unified event, setting, or story within a film’s narrative.*

It usually refers to a longer segment of film than a scene.

Skyfall Opening Credits – It can be called nothing but a sequence. It isn’t really included in the film’s narrative.

Called sequence if it is more than a shot, or cannot call it a scene because it is longer than a scene or it exists totally outside the narrative.

**Definition.** *A* **take** *is a single continuously recorded performance that may or may not be included in the film; every version of shot.*

Often, multiple takes are made of the same shot during filming before the director approves the shot.

A frame from *The Godfather* – Foreground and Background. This is *always* relative to the distance from the camera. You’ll need two vaguely divided spaces to talk about this.

**Note.** The term *settings* is different from *background*. Setting is the material space where the movie scene happens, while fore/background is just referring to the objects that are relatively in near/far distance from the camera.

**Definition.** *If something is part of the implied story world, it is called* **diegetic***, and* **non-diegetic** *or* **extradiegetic** *if it exists outside the story world.*

**Note.** You should be able to choose the correct terms when it’s used.

**October 8, 2018**

Visual images and effects

**Dracula**

* Dracula’s shadow – true intention, supernatural power, uneasiness
* Dracula’s vivid red robe, old fashioned clothing and makeup, interesting hairstyle, very pale skin – difference from other people (*otherness*), cannot face the sun, inhuman longevity (outside of human time)
* Dracula’s skin heals really fast, is very white
* Blue flame in the entrance of the castle
* Crossing the door of Dracula’s house – camera and sound
* Wolf pack
* Castle – surrounded by dead trees
* Suggestive of blood – ink flowing, red seal, red robe

**Mise en Scene**

**Definition. Mise en Scene** *is the arrangement of everything that appears on the screen.*

It refers to the things that already exist before the shooting; “cinematography” comprises the techniques involving the camera and film stock (or its digital equivalent). In short words, everything that creates the visual “world” of the film.

**Setting, Human figure, Lighting, Composition** are the four elements of mise en scene.

**Definition. Setting** *is the place and time where the story of the film or the scene is happening.*

The **human figure** consists of costumes, props, and makeup.

**October 10, 2018**

Children of Men

* Battle in the camp
* Religious symbolism/metaphor – the baby stopping the battle; failure to save the pieta; Kee giving birth, in a barn; “virgin” joke;
* Government support for euthanasia (Quietus)
* 20th century/old-fashioned look
* Lack of plausibility
* Why is Kee black?

Next Class

* The setting/world
* How the setting/world is visualized?
* Any other interesting visual elements/scenes

**Lighting**: brightness, soft/harsh, contrast, cold/warm light

**Composition**: Which line is dominant? Is it visibly symmetrical or not? Whether there is a lot of empty space. What objects compose the scene? Horizontal, vertical, diagonal, symmetrical, asymmetrical, loose/tight framing.

**October 17, 2018**

Age of Innocence

Cannot remember

**October 22, 2018**

**Cinematography** is whatever comes after the involvement of the camera. It is the aspects of filmmaking that involve photographic or electronic process of producing images.

Cannot distinguish easily between mise en scene and cinematography

Development of technology, lot of settings are created by computer generated images, lot of characters are made from special effects. It is hard to tell which is computer graphics and special effects. (Computer graphics these days blend in to the scene very naturally)

Animated films, nothing is mise en scene, everything is drawn with computers. Heavily computer graphic movies (planet of the apes) …

Wider umbrella of *visual effects*.

Just remember how to watch, how to see, must be able to explain why something is interesting.

Four elements of cinematography: *Camerawork, Lenses and Filters, Film Stock, Special visual effects.*

**Camerawork**: Manipulation of time – slow/fast motion, time-lapse photography, frozen-time moment, etc. Camera movement is a lot more important.

The placement of camera – height, angle, shot distance

Low height of camera – everything looks bigger

For which purpose are those techniques are used?

High angle – character looking up: shows anxiety

Low angle – character looking down: intimidating character

The shot distance

**Lens and Filters**: manipulation of depth, size and focus.

Depth of field: the perceived distance between foreground and background

Shallow focus – emotional distance, perceptual distance

Deep focus – everything is focused (usually in action scenes)

Filters: affects contrast, sharpness, color and light intensity in the images.

Colors may give you a certain feeling.

**Film Stock**: (Less used these days) Types & attributes of the film stock, light & exposure, and the processing of the film stock. It affects color, depth of contrast. Increasingly replaced by digital cinematography.

Accurate, no distortion involved.

**Visual Effects**: Optimal illusions + digital techniques. During principal photography + in post-production.