This film was absolutely amazing. From the beginning to the end, despite the long running time, I was totally absorbed into the movie. The contrast of wedding and business going on in the darkness, all those people having relationships… They were pretty confusing, but I think as time passed, it came pretty evident. Just that it was hard to remember all the names, I feel like some of them weren’t even English. In my opinion, I think this film really showed well how Michael changed. At first, he really seemed uninterested in the family business, but after Vito gets shot, we could see him gradually change. The most shocking scene was when Michael got punched by the police captain. He was punched very hard, and I think that was a turning point for him. From that moment on, he started to help in the family business, eventually ending up going to the meeting with Sollozzo. I was personally very frightened when Michael was trying to find the gun in the toilet. The sound effects made everything feel serious, heavy and in high tension. I was almost scared that I had to pause the movie for a while. I could feel him really trying to make up his mind. At the end of the film, one thing I noticed that Michael became “Don” and as the door closes, the distance between Kay and Michael increased. I think it may suggest he might have to live at a distance from his family. I really enjoyed it and I would also like to recommend it to my friends.

**November 12, 2018**

The Godfather

Visual style – lighting

Marriage (opening)

Baptism – Godfather: Spiritual father of the baptized person

Glorification of the Mafia – keeper of justice, humane and familiar; respectable speech and behavior, the police is worse; you cannot trust them, Mafia like aristocrats or royalty (Meeting in New York**), Protecting the family as the main motivation** (Everything done in the name of family – financial stuff)

Double meaning of the word “family”, “godfather”

In which way is the Mafia glorified/idealized/romanticized? Which element of the movie make you think that way?

Vito buying fruit – Cultural thing. Nice that he actually buys the fruit from the street vendors. Rich people usually interact with other people. It was unusual at that time. Nowadays rich people are segregated. It’s also what he usually did; that’s how assassins could wait there.

Glorification of people themselves – person and moral ground / Life style – less problematic since it wasn’t entirely fictional

I want you to be my friend, be my friend godfather – lot of double meaning words

**“Glorification of Mafia”**

What was Don Corleone’s original intention? – Michael was supposed to be something else, not a criminal. Not only Michael but he wanted all his child to be out of this criminal background. Sonnie was the worst.

*Criminal activity of the family was supposed to be temporary.* Vito wanted Michael to be legitimate. The whole narrative raises the question, does that really work? Until Michael kills of everyone else, the family gets less safe and safe. Killing the enemy, revenge, does not work.

Baptism Scene

Killing and baptism combined – should not be combined, creates contrast.

Mafia are so easy to kill.

I renounce Satan – Killing begins right after this. Shots are combined in a way that emphasizes that Michael is lying to the priest. Emphasizes moral corruption. Hypocritical.

Visual similarities – Some liquid put on the baby then the shot with man putting on shaving cream is shown. Adds to the connection and contrast of baptism scenes and murder scenes.

Continuous sound – shows connection between two things happening in different places. Also quite disturbing since we hear church music while the murder.

Editing, Elements of famous sequences

Next class think about what does the director want to show us by constructing this strange sequence? Murder and Baptism, visual similarities? What are we supposed to get?

**November 14th, 2018**

Important theme or idea of the movie ?

He lies to his wife.

Double sides of whole family business – word play (family, godfather, An offer one cannot refuse, friend) (As criminal business …?)

Baptism scene and earlier wedding scene is similar

Outside – cheerful, happy // Inside – serious, dark business going on (Contrast)

Baptism scene – dramatic visualization of the double sided family, hypocrisy, Michael becomes godfather (pivot of transformation, corruption, moral downfall – killing his brother in law and lying to his wife is not an escalation, now it’s what he does)

Editing that emphasizes difference rather than similarity

Editing is done in order to make you forget about editing, perceive the film as one whole continuous story.

Intellectual editing – Baptism in church but Murder going on (shown in surface), but contrast between sacred baptism and sinful murder. Michael’s duplicity

delivers that baptism and murder are happening in the same time on the surface narrative

Intellectual idea of corruption, tragic transformation, duplicity and hypocrisy.

**Frozen – Do you wanna build a snowman?**

Montage sequence: A series of shots are edited into a sequence to suggest the passage of time.

Several years are condensed into a song.

What is this sequence trying to show you? What are the information you can get from the sequence?

How really different shots of baptism and murder are combined together

Preparation of baptism is intersected with preparing murder, Actual baptism is intersected with actual murder, Barber putting shaving cream on the chin immediately followed by the priest putting ointment on the baby’s chin (Visual similarities)

changed appearance – passage of time

Musical sequences in disney films are carefully timed.

**Timing** is the transition of the shots in relation to other elements. Usually you need other elements to talk about timing.

Timed exactly in the same way according to the music – knocking

Godfather – the baptism background sound is continued throughout the whole sequence, When Michael denounces Satan, immediately after his words, murder scene is followed.

**Dissolve** first shot dissolved out, second shot slowly appearing – we see two scenes simultaneously.

Fade In/Fade Out

**November 19th, 2018**

Editing - Montage sequence

Montage sequence from Scarface – Push it to the limit (Making a lot of money)

Director wants to show how Tony’s life changed gradually, or at least step by step. He is a guy who started from the bottom. It’s important to show what he is becoming.

Sports movie – training session: they make it into a montage sequence.

Portrayal of Gangster 알 파치노 – Not similar to the wealthy gangsters in “The Godfather”

Different depiction of

Not just one way to show this character is really rich/middle class/poor. In “The Godfather” it’s not problematic whether or not the gangsters are depicted wealthy. Don Corleone – obviously rich. House, clothing – their wealth dignified

**Sound**

Usually concentrate on the narrative – we use the phrase “watch the film”

But sounds can also deliver a lot of information.

Listen to a clip without the visual image. Gather all the information you can get from the sound.

Clip from **Belle**

Harbor (seagull), past (lack of engine sounds), tension (music)

Three components of film sound

1. Dialogue

2. Sound Effects – Anything that is not music or speech.

3. Music – repeated lyrics emphasizing repetition and unchanging relation in Frozen, lyrics:

Music from Lion King

English lyrics and composed by English language user, but sounds like an African tribal / ethnic song.

The background chorus and the instruments used (traditional drum sounds)