I really enjoyed this movie! I liked all the props used in the movie, they were beautiful, and I also liked the unusual screen ratio. When the movie ended, I realized that the screen ratio changed as the time setting of the story changed. So the whole movie is composed of stories inside a story, each taking place in different periods of time. The main story, I think, was about a murder case where Gustave H. is suspected. Overall, I think Zero did an amazing job as a lobby boy, and as a loyal friend/brother of Gustave. Zero helped him almost everywhere in the story, so much that it almost feels reasonable for Gustave to choose Zero as his successor.

I really liked the jailbreaking scene, since I got very nervous and also the skiing scene, because they moved so fast that I could almost feel the cold wind touching my cheeks.

**October 24, 2018**

Grand Budapest hotel

* Multiple frame Structure – A girl reading a book; The narrator of the book; Zero as the narrator
* Screen Ratio
* Chapters – explicitly showing the “parts” of the film; like a book
* Deeper and deeper into the past
* Book-like feeling – chapters, narration
* Story-like feeling – colors for each space
* Lack of realism (like a picture) – symmetry, lack of diagonal lines, static and flat background

Speed of characters = Speed of Camera: It feels very static, minimal movement

Snow mountain sleigh chase scene – Fictional. Highly artificial space.

Miniature – cannot use CG since the movie was intentionally made to look old, designed to give us feeling that the whole thing is made up

We see a lot of people talking directly to the camera, 2 people symmetrically talking to each other. Characters are faced in 0 or 90 degrees respect to the camera.

Usually, movies want the audience to forget themselves and get absorbed to the movie. The focus should be the world inside the movie. But the characters talking directly to the camera makes the audience constantly remember themselves.

Symmetry – A lot of things are symmetrical, but we don’t see them usually in a perspective such that the view is symmetrical.

This whole unrealistic view may imply that Zero might not miss the past that much.

**Question for Next Class:** Why does the movie prevent us from being absorbed into the movie? What kind of effect does it have?

Hint: This is a story about someone’s past.

Does the story itself make sense? Does it seem realistic?

Why the film wants us to view the whole story as a fiction?

Nostalgia – really important in explaining the obvious fictionality in the film.

What is nostalgia ? - It’s about the past. Associated with good feeling of the past. Feeling positive.

Everything is kinda comical… Everything will eventually turn out alright.

Why does the film want us to realize nostalgia… why are we told this story at all?

Artistic Motif of the film – there’s a lot of art in the film. The painting “Boy with an Apple”, cake, perfume (artificial beauty object). Visual art + Literary art – Gustave H’s poetry.

Zero’s beautified memory is turned in the literary art object : novel

Personal memory turned into a book, all the events in the past, eventually passes through time. What is heard and recorded remains as an artistic object so there’s value inside it.

Nostalgia is what makes things beautiful. It’s how you keep the beauty of the world.

Accurately remembers the death of Gustave H. It cannot be beautified as anything else. It was the only black-and-white scene in the entire movie.

How nostalgia functions, what kind of value does nostalgia have?

How is the visual style opposite from Inception? - Christopher Nolan tries to make everything real.

**Children of Men**

Unusually old people… Moving camera : going through the crowd

Looks realistic and ugly. Policemen are everywhere. Dysfunctional society – trash is also everywhere, this is a society where that is normal. Thing that should be invisible – trash, water etc. not working well (sign of dysfunctional society)

Long take after the TV scene. This gives you authenticity. Documentaries usually have longer shots – low budget, so less camera… less shots…

Exam will be composed of 3 questions, will have to answer in paragraph format. Rule is that the question will ask you to combine the 1 of the film watched and 1 of the things that we learned in the classroom

Text / context, narrative structure, protagonist and conflicts, themes and motifs, visual style, mise en scene, camera, etc. ← How these emphasize a certain thing in the film.

Pick any of films and discuss any motif.

Particular film, discuss theme.

Any unique visual style from the films assigned?

Zootopia, Dracula, Age of Innocence, Shining

Either talk specifically about a film that you have seen.

If you choose to discuss the films that are mentioned in the class, you may choose to do so, but if you rather pretend that never happened… That’s completely okay.

One question may ask you about one specific film.

Additional information. Explain why you think so! It has to have deeper meaning than superficial function in the movie. In that case, you will be asked to clearly do that. At least 2~3 examples, etc.

Circular Motif - Inception

Religious Motif – Children of Men

Visual element of the film…