Easy Rider (1969)

I. Genre

A. really a subgenre called road-outlaw film

1. genre reflects revisionist impulses

2. not really a "buddy film"

B. shares themes of western and revisionist westerns

1. frequently same space different time

2. simarly icons, frequently transformed by time

II. "world" ( space and time)

A. Dichotomy

1. realm of freedom

a. open road, and the Harley, no cars on the road

b. depicted by images

i. vast beautiful open landscapes of

southwest

ii. Monument Valley

c. quiet moments, low key conversations

d. counter-culture hippie commune

i. collective social life

ii. different values and norms, sharing, nudity,

free love, drugs, separation from material

culture

iii. living off the land

iv. place of the women

v. no time, distance, place

e. counter-culture self-subsisting family

i. living off the land

ii. traditional values family, place of

the woman

iii. sharing

2. conflicts in realm of freedom

a. Harley is not a horse comparing the fixing of the

tire with the horse shoe

b. Hippie commune is exclusionary

i. worried about sharing

ii. exclued Billy

c. the realm of freedom is built on the grave sight

of those whose land this was

3. The realm of "unfreedom", images are claustrophobic,

narrow roads, steel bridges whith bars

a. "no vacancy"

b. bureaucratic rules no parading without a permit

c. exclusionary norms - jail and diner

i. animals because long hair

d. fear

i. afraid of heroes

ii. represent freedom

iii. reveals hypocrisy in their life of confomity

to narrow social norms

e. violent

i. the violence of Vietnam, segregation,

i. kills Jack Nicholson

ii. kills Wyatt and Billy

f. alcoholism

II. Protagonists

A. Anti-heores

1. drug dealers

2. pot smokes with long hair

3. aren't working, Wyatt throws away watch

4. out laws looking for America

5. why outlaws

B. Coded

1. Names from our western history

a. Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid

2. Billy

a. dressed in buckskin with pony express had

3. Wyatt

a. American flag

4. Harley as symbol of outlaw bikers - Hell's Angels

5. camera views them through past world

a. old shacks

b. ruins

C. Actions

1. fundamental action - go to Mardi Gras

2. they avoid violence, the cafe

3. actions resolve nothing, fairly passive

4. time is running out

D. Resolution

1. no resolution

2. anti-heroes get killed by representative of repressive

society

a. red-necks not just red-necks

b. embody the violence of Vietnam and segregation,

the assassinations

3. can't or won't tolerate difference