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* Die hard is very good at keeping us focused on the narrative.
* We dont always feel what the filmmaker wants us to feel.
* Tehyre giving respect to terrorist that have more motivated belifs, post 9/11 wouldnt see some things

**Die Hard and CH Narrative Construction**

* DH has v stonmg cause and effect relationship between events
* Individual characters desires motivate the narrative
* The film has a strong sense of closure
* Its development is structured by motifs, repetitions, and parallels
* This is a post classical films, but still follows classical

**DH uses an invisible style**

First rule of invisib;e style, audience is given optimal view of narrative action. Ex, John wedding ring airplane shot, very diffulcut bc of space

All systems are directed for the narrative and storytelling. Lighting, Camera, Framing, focus, costuming all keep main objective

Its directing v quickly from one ction to another, Emotions range from, Identification,...

**Characters as tools of analysis**

* Everytime the wife is looking at the madness, she knows its her husband and we know by her.
* In Mclane vs Terrorists: Mclane is an object of identification and terrorist disidentification

**Joe Takagi is an official hero:**

* He believes in objective legal action
* Perseus due process and procedure
* Collective

Characterization and Narration

Reopition w Argle and Mclane scene, questioning

Strong comparision between Gruber and Takagi, both care about their people, alot of parallelism

Narration:

* Die hard has omniscient narration
* Restructed Narration: Only one characters knowledge, we learn at the same time as her
* First Person Narration: explicit voiceover
* Mixed narration: we know as much as some but not all of the characters

* Suspense is when we know more than the characters do
* Repetition and parallelism: man introducing new man
* Motif: any significant repeated element, in DH Johns feet

**Ella Shohat: “Ethnicities in Relation”**

* “Whiteness” is rarely named as an thnicity
* It is the “norm” or the general against which other are generalised
* Studies of ethnicity does not seem to
* One crucial attribute of whiteness as the norm is the ambivalent mirroring of the other
* Ex. when D/h opens and Mclane arrives at Nakatomi plaza, when Mclane enters rap christmas song, camera is high, that is an appropriation of blackness
* Immigration is the foundation of America, everyone except native americans are immigrants, how did whitness become the center

Diagetic: is anything thatthe chracters can see or hear. Diagesis refers to the storyspace

**Genre**

1. **Western**

* DH is an urban western

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**Close Reading:**

* What the scene **says**
* What the scene **implies**
* How to the scene **connects to context**
* Make note of the scnes that are **puzzling or rich in detail or contradictory**

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**Commercial cinema is mythological**

* Transforms history into myth
* Converts social, political, economic problems to personal melodrama

**Genre**

* Recognizable conventions
* Genre: an expressive form that articulates ideological concepts directly
* Myth: symbolic narratives drawn from society’s history that dramatize its ideology and moral consciousness
* The classical Western
  + Location, Iconography, Time
  + Themes: Justice, revenge, freedom, wilderness v civilization
  + Characters:

**Myth of the American Frontier**

**Manifest Destiny**

* The special virtues of the American people and their institutions
* The mission of the United States to redeem and remake the West in the image of the agrarian East

**Frontier Myth**

* In domestic conflict wiht the natural enviornment and Indians, violence was seen as necessary
* Subjugation was believed to be the only way to coexist, settlers subjugating Indians
* Settlers blamed Indians, a projective psychology that rationalized American aggression against indigenous Indians and Balck Africans

**Evolution of Western Genre**

**Embodiment**

* Pleasure, pain and suffering
* Sensorial and sensual engagement with the world
* Vulnerabilities,
* Gendered and intersectional
* A form of subjectivity that is manifested bodily
* Provides the grounds for intentional activity

Masculine Embodiment

* Rational control over injured body, mind over matter, overcoming

Embodibent and Injury

* Raises the stakes of suspense - will the hero prevail or not?

**Overcoming**

* Action genre, masculine embodiment overcomes injury, no matter how extreme
* Does so by force of will, defying the laws of medicine, ballistics and physics
* Narrative investment in the Western and the action heroes exceptional capabilities for violence, survivla and domination

**Ableism**

* Our entire world is structured around able people

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**The Body in the Western Tradition**

**Western Frontier Myth**

**Classicla narrative structure**

* Strong cause and effect
* Character goals and motivations get the cause and effect goin
* Strong narrative closure

Section 2: Oct 13, 2023

* Terms:
  + Myth
  + Intersectionality
  + Embodiment