

FILM7007: Narration in Classical Hollywood Cinema (Semester 1)

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70 items

Recommended Films (36 items)

The bulk of examples for the current academic year will consist of "New Hollywood" films of the 1970s. The reason this is a particularly suitable period is that many Hollywood filmmakers at the time (people like Altman, Coppola, Scorsese, Spielberg, Lucas, De Palma, Lumet, Ashby, Pakula, Friedkin, Cimino, etc.) were trying to introduce the challenges of European Art Films to classicism into the Hollywood mainstream.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but it is important that you watch as many as you can, so that you can participate in discussions. Students are encouraged to bring their own examples into discussions. Having some common gravitational centre in the 1970s helps to compare films and trends within a fixed period of evolution, but more contemporary films can also help to acquire a sense of perspective.

Midnight cowboy - John Schlesinger, 2000

Audio-visual document

Blow-up - Michelangelo Antonioni, 2004

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2001, a space odyssey - Stanley Kubrick, 2008

Audio-visual document

McCabe and Mrs Miller - Robert Altman, 2003

Audio-visual document

A clockwork orange - Stanley Kubrick, 2001

Audio-visual document

Cabaret - Bob Fosse, 2005

Audio-visual document

The Long Goodbye - Robert Altman, c2004

Audio-visual document

Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid - Sam Peckinpah, 2006

Audio-visual document

Mean streets - Martin Scorsese, 2005

Audio-visual document

The godfather - Francis Ford Coppola, 2004

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The Godfather part II - Francis Ford Coppola, 1974

Audio-visual document

The conversation - Francis Ford Coppola, 2004

Audio-visual document

Chinatown - Roman Polanski, 2000

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A woman under the influence - John Cassavetes, 2005

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One flew over the cuckoo's nest - Milos Forman, 2008

Audio-visual document

Nashville - Robert Altman, 2014

Audio-visual document

Taxi driver - Martin Scorsese, 1999

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Barry Lyndon - Stanley Kubrick, c2001

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New York, New York - Martin Scorsese, 2005

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Opening night - John Cassavetes, 2005

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Saturday night fever - John Badham, 1977

Audio-visual document

The deer hunter - Michael Cimino, 2003

Audio-visual document

Apocalypse now - Francis Ford Coppola, 2004

Audio-visual document

Alien - Ridley Scott, 2000

Audio-visual document

The shining - Stanley Kubrick, 2001

Audio-visual document

1941 - Steven Spielberg, 2008

Audio-visual document

Raging bull - Martin Scorsese, 2005

Audio-visual document

Some non 1970s films used to illustrate other points. (9 items)

Casablanca - Michael Curtiz, 2003

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Mildred Pierce - Michael Curtiz, 2003

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Shane - George Cooper Stevens, 2003

Audio-visual document

Rear Window - Alfred Hitchcock, 2003

Audio-visual document

All that heaven allows - Douglas Sirk, 2007

Audio-visual document

Sweet smell of success - Alexander Mackendrick, 2002

Audio-visual document

Vertigo - Alfred Hitchcock, 2003

Audio-visual document

The apartment - Billy Wilder, 2004

Audio-visual document

Mulholland Drive - David Lynch, 2007

Audio-visual document

Indicative Reading/Bibliography (34 items)

All students should assimilate David Bordwell's approach to Hollywood storytelling. Three volumes are basic : Classical Hollywood Cinema (co-written with Janet Staiger and Kristin Thompson), Narration in the Fiction Film and his recent *The Way Hollywood Tells It*. Also for analysis along Bordwell's lines check out Kristin Thompson's *Storytelling in the New Hollywood*. Robert McKee's *Story* is very readable and gives a good summary of scriptwriting technique from a more practical standpoint. Christopher Booker's *Seven Basic Plots* is a good divulgative (rather than strictly academic) introduction to plot as myth, with interesting ideas on the cultural roots of film plots. Along the same lines, check out the very influential *A Writer's Journey* by Christopher Vogler, focusing on quest plots. Steven Neales is good on genre, and quite comprehensive in historicizing this category in *Genre and Hollywood*. A more theoretical approach will be found in Rick Altman's *Film/Genre*. Bibliographic details below. Given there will be a focus on American films of the 1970s, Todd Berliner's *Hollywood Incoherent* is essential reading as it deals with specificities of the period in terms of storytelling. For context on the period, the Kirshner essay *Hollywood's Last Golden Age* and Robin Wood's *From Vietnam to Reagan* will help you get

a clearer vision on the reasons why traditional narratives were challenged.

Film/genre - Rick Altman, British Film Institute, 1999

[Book](#) | Essential

A theory of narrative - Rick Altman, 2008

[Book](#) | Essential

Hollywood incoherent: narration in seventies cinema - Todd Berliner, 2010

[Book](#) | Essential

Hollywood aesthetic: pleasure in American cinema - Todd Berliner, 2017

[Book](#)

Narration in the fiction film - David Bordwell, 1986

[Book](#) | Essential

The way Hollywood tells it: story and style in modern movies - David Bordwell, 2006

[Book](#) | Recommended

Film art: an introduction - David Bordwell, Kristin Thompson, Jeff Smith, 2017

[Book](#) | Recommended

The classical Hollywood cinema: film style & mode of production to 1960 - David Bordwell, Janet Staiger, Kristin Thompson, 1985

[Book](#) | Recommended

The seven basic plots: why we tell stories - Christopher Booker, 2004

[Book](#) | Recommended

Narrative comprehension and film - Edward Branigan, 1992

[Book](#) | Essential

Myths to live by - Joseph Campbell, 1973

[Book](#) | Recommended

The hero with a thousand faces - Joseph Campbell, 2004

[Book](#) | Recommended

The hero with a thousand faces - Joseph Campbell, 1993

[Book](#) | Recommended

Bio/pics: how Hollywood constructed public history - George Frederick Custen, 1992

[Book](#) | Recommended

Screenplay: the foundations of screenwriting - Syd Field, 2005

[Book](#) | Recommended

Writers in Hollywood, 1915-1951 - Ian Hamilton, 2011

[Book](#)

The making of Casablanca: Bogart, Bergman, and World War II - Aljean Harmetz, c2002

[Book](#) | Essential

The making of The Wizard of Oz - Aljean Harmetz, 2013

[Book](#)

Hollywood's last golden age: politics, society, and the seventies film in America - Jonathan Kirshner, 2012

[Book](#) | Recommended

The death of classical cinema: Hitchcock, Lang, Minnelli - Joe McElhaney, c2006

[Book](#) | Essential

Backstory 2: interviews with screenwriters of the 1940s and 1950s - Patrick McGilligan, 1997

[Book](#) | Recommended

Story: substance, structure, style, and the principles of screenwriting - Robert McKee, 1999

[Book](#) | Essential

Genre and Hollywood - Steve Neale, 2000

[Book](#) | Essential

The art and science of screenwriting - Philip Parker, 1999

[Book](#)

Film style and technology: history and analysis - Barry Salt, c2009

[Book](#)

The genius of the system: Hollywood film-making in the studio era - Thomas Schatz, 1998

[Book](#) | Essential

The genius of the system: Hollywood filmmaking in the studio era - Thomas Schatz, 2010

[Book](#) | Essential

Post-classical cinema: an international poetics of film narration - Eleftheria Thanouli, 2009

[Book](#) | Essential

Storytelling in the new Hollywood: understanding classical narrative technique - Kristin Thompson, c1999

[Book](#) | Essential

Twenty master plots and how to build them - Ron Tobias, 1999

[Book](#) | Essential

Film as social practice - Graeme Turner, 2006

[Book](#) | Recommended

Film as social practice - Graeme Turner, 2006

[Book](#) | Recommended

The writer's journey: mythic structure for writers - Christopher Vogler, 2007

Book | Essential

Hollywood from Vietnam to Reagan and beyond - Robin Wood, c2003

Book | Essential