

THE ART OF MOVIE MAGIC

By: Jason Grooms

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a general film appreciation and history class. It will introduce you to the basics of film production, narrative, style, editing, performance, sound, theory, and analysis, among other things. It will also expose you to a variety of films produced in the U. S. and other countries from the very beginnings of the medium in the 1890s, through the "silent era" of the 1910s-20s and the "golden age" of Hollywood in the 1930s-50s, up to the present, including some films in foreign languages with English subtitles.

We'll use the textbook [Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film, 3rd Edition](#) as our primary source supplemented by online articles and videos listed for each module.

ASSIGNMENTS

REACTION PAPERS

You will write up one, one-page (300 to 500 words) in length reaction paper for each week, discussing the films assigned for that week. These should not be merely a synopsis, but should reflect some thought about the film(s) and how they might relate to concepts you've learned that week. The purpose of these papers is to get you in the habit of thinking critically about films immediately after seeing them, and to practice getting those thoughts down on paper in a coherent form while the film is fresh in your memory. They should also help you think of comments and questions you can bring up in discussions. Papers should be saved to the class folder on Google Drive.

FACT PAGE

Accompanying each module will be a list of objects, places, people, ideas, or dates. For each one of these items you must research a definition or list three to five facts that somehow relate to film or movies. These are separate from the reaction papers. The fact list can be included in the same document, but will account for separate credit.

SYLLABUS

MODULE 1 - INTRODUCTION

1. Read these Articles/Chapter:
 - o Top 20 Useful Tips for Writing a Film Analysis Essay – <https://custom-writing.org/blog/time-out-for-your-brain/7542.html>
 - o How to Write an Analysis Paper on a Movie - <http://penandthepad.com/write-analysis-paper-movie-8156149.html>
 - o Writing About Film - https://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/files/ssc/writing_about_film_2014.pdf
2. Watch these Movies

- o Chapter 1: Looking at Movies - http://wnorton.com/college/film/movies3_dvd/
 - o Chapter 2: Principles of Film Form - http://wnorton.com/college/film/movies3_dvd/
 - o Juno (2007) [Rental]
3. Write a Reaction Paper
 4. Write a Fact Page
 - o Movie/Film/Cinema
 - o Form
 - o Content

MODULE 2 – THE INVENTION OF FILM

1. Read these Articles/Chapter:
 - o Development of Cinema: From Scientific Novelty to a New Art and Entertainment Industry, by Christopher P. Jacobs - <http://www.und.edu/instruct/cjacobs/DevelopmentoftheCinema.htm>
 - o Kinetoscope - <https://www.britannica.com/technology/Kinetoscope>
 - o The Lumière Brothers, Pioneers of Cinema – <http://www.history.com/news/the-lumiere-brothers-pioneers-of-cinema>
2. Watch these Movies
 - o Roundhay Garden Scene: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nR2r_ZgO5g
 - o The Execution of Mary Queen of Scots - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgDG_wc19aU
 - o Arrival of a Train - <http://publicdomainreview.org/collections/the-execution-of-mary-queen-of-scots-1895/>
 - o Chapter 5: Mise-en-Scène: The Lumiere Brothers “Actualities” - http://wnorton.com/college/film/movies3_dvd/
3. Write a reaction paper
4. Write a Fact Page
 - o Kinetoscope
 - o Thomas Edison
 - o The Execution of Mary Queen of Scots
 - o Roundhay Garden Scene
 - o Arrival of a Train
 - o The Lumière Brothers
 - o Eadward Muybridge

MODULE 3 – VOYAGE DANS LA LUNE (A TRIP TO THE MOON) 1902

1. Read this article/chapter
 - o Looking at Movies, Chapter1: *Looking at Movies*
 - o Looking at Movies, Chapter 2: *Principles of Film*
2. Watch these Movie
 - o Voyage Dans La Lune (1902) - <https://archive.org/details/Levoyagedanslalune>
 - o Scrooge (or Marley's Ghost) (1901) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILDHYsC-gO>
3. Write a reaction paper
4. Write a Fact Page
 - o Jules Verne
 - o Silent Film
 - o Charles Dickens

- o Verisimilitude
 - o Realism
 - o Antirealism
 - o Science Fiction
5. Read these articles
- o Filmsite Movie Review: A Trip to the Moon – <http://www.filmsite.org/voya.html>
 - o A Trip to the Moon Reveals the Psychology of Film – <http://brainknowsbetter.com/news/2014/2/21/georges-melies-a-trip-to-the-moon-reveals-the-psychology-of-film>

MODULE 4 – TYPES OF FILM (The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari and Nanook of the North)

1. Read this article/chapter
 - o Looking at Movies, Chapter 3, *Types of Movies*
 - o D.W.Griffith - <http://www.und.edu/instruct/cjacobs/DWGriffith.html>
 - o Learning History at the Movies - <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/11/29/learning-history-at-the-movies/>
2. Watch these Movie
 - o Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari (The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BuocVLKdSgQ>
 - o Nanook of the North - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoUafjAHOcg>
 - o Chapter 3: Types of Movies - http://wwnorton.com/college/film/movies3_dvd/
3. Write a reaction paper
4. Write a Fact Page
 - o The Cabinet of Dr Caligari
 - o Robert Wiene
 - o Conrad Veidt
 - o German Expressionism
 - o Documentary
 - o Nanook of the North
 - o Horror film
 - o Robert J. Flaherty
5. Read these articles
 - o Why is “The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari” considered the definitive German expressionist film - <http://screenprism.com/insights/article/why-is-the-cabinet-of-dr.-caligari-considered-the-definitive-german-express>
 - o How I filmed Nanook of the North - <http://www.documentary.org/feature/how-i-filmed-nanook-north>

MODULE 5 - STORYTELLING (THE GOLEM AND METROPOLIS)

1. Read this article/chapter
 - o Looking at Movies, Chapter 4, *Elements of Narrative*
2. Watch these Movies
 - o The Golem: How he Came into the World - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPYdQcpmqM>
 - o Metropolis (1927) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SArNZEcQWH4>
 - o Chapter 4: Elements of Narrative (Part 1, 2, and 3)

3. Write a reaction paper
4. Read these articles
 - o The Golem - <http://www.filmmonthly.com/Silents/Articles/Golem/Golem.html>
 - o 1927 Magazine Looks at Metropolis, "A Movie Based On Science" - <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/1927-magazine-looks-at-metropolis-a-movie-based-on-science-4328353/>
5. Write a Fact Page
 - o Paul Wegener
 - o Fritz Lang
 - o Metropolis
 - o The Golem
 - o Cinematographer
 - o Narrator
 - o Diegetic vs Non-diegetic
 - o Plot
 - o Suspense

MODULE 6

1. Read this article/chapter
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2. Watch these Movies
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6. Write a reaction paper
7. Read these articles
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8. Write a Fact Page
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