

ARTH 1112 Introduction to Film

Study Tip: Online Glossary with Film Terms (plus Film Clips!)

<http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/projects/filmglossary/web/filmterms.html>

Midterm Take-Home Questions (Total: 50 points)

Due: Submit on Blackboard BEFORE In-Class Exam Tuesday March 24th 10 AM

(if you have problems with Blackboard, feel free to email me your exam answers with the subject line Midterm Essays-Your Name. I will upload to SafeAssign for you.)

Your midterm take-home answers are checked against the internet via SafeAssign, therefore, please write your answers in your own words and do not cut-and-paste from internet sources.

You can do additional reading and research for the essays, but please try to access scholarly sources like your textbook and not Wikipedia. Below, I have recommended some essays that you can look at (you can use others too!) and these essays are located on our class website under [Documents/Readings](#) but you need a password to access them.

1. Choose two of the following questions to answer. Write a 400-500 word essay for each answer (that's approximately 3 paragraphs). Worth 20 points each, *written in your own words*.

- A. Briefly outline the development of "editing" in silent cinema. Cite at least three examples of film and at least three editing techniques used. Be as specific as you can with your examples. (Recommended reading: Tom Gunning, "The Cinema of Attractions" on our OpenLab class website)
- B. Compare the theme of fantasy in silent cinema and talkies. Cite at least one example of silent film and one talkie, plus discuss two points of difference AND similarity. Be as specific as you can in describing your examples.
- C. Compare the role of women's roles in silent cinema and the sound films discussed in class. Cite at least three examples that draw attention to a change or no change in the role of women in film. Be as specific as you can in describing your examples.
- D. Discuss the connection of montage and politics in early Russian cinema. Cite at least three examples in your essay. Be as specific as you can in describing your examples. (Recommended reading: Vertov "WE: VARIANT OF A MANIFESTO" on our OpenLab class website)

2. Imagine you have been asked to write an entry for the *Encyclopedia of World Cinema*. Choose one of the following topics to write on. Write 250-300 words for your entry. Worth 10 points, *written in your own words*.

- Write a 250-300 word entry on “film noir.” Provide readers with the following information:
 - a 1-3 sentence definition of the term
 - a description of its formal characteristics (i.e., chiaroscuro lighting)
 - a description of its thematic interests and concerns
 - a statement about its overall importance to the history of cinema.

As a basis for your entry, you can cite Robert Porifirio’s “The Strange Case of Film Noir” (on our OpenLab class website) or another scholarly source.

- Write a 250-300 word entry on “Impact of *Nosferatu* (1922) on vampire movies.” Provide readers with the following information:
 - a 1-3 sentence definition of the role and historical background
 - a description of the film’s formal characteristics (i.e., chiaroscuro lighting)
 - a description of its innovations and concerns
 - a statement about its overall importance to the history of vampire movies

As a basis for your entry, you can cite Thomas Elsaesser’s “No End to *Nosferatu* (1922)” (on our OpenLab class website) or another scholarly source.

n.b. Your essays are submitted on Blackboard via SafeAssign, therefore, make sure you write your essays in your own words. A matching rate of 30% or more will probably receive 0 points for the submission.