

# Film Analysis

## Part I. Explain how meaning is constructed through these film elements\*

- include reasoning: "How do you know?" "Why?" etc.

### 1) The Narrative

- Who's the protagonist (hero/antihero)?
  - Is he/she in this scene? Their goal/s? Character flaws?
  - Other characters? Purpose?
- Is there a narrator? (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> person, etc)
- Does film follow basic narrative structure?
  - What part/act is scene in, how do you know?
- Do characters seem realistic? Are they meant to?
- Plot: chronological?
- Scene's significance for protagonist/film as a whole
  - How does the scene move the plot forward?
- Screenwriter (who? known for? association w/director?)

### 2) Genre

- Which genre does it belong? (define & do research)
- How do you know? Be specific:
  - Which genre conventions are met? Which are strayed from?
  - Specific character types?
  - Where is the movie set/the environment? Significance?
  - What is the film's theme?
  - Are there motifs? Symbolism? What's the target audience?

### 3) Mise en Scène

- What's included in the shot/scene?
  - How do the arrangement of objects/props/characters provide meaning/offer significance?
- What do the objects say about character? What do they reveal? What about costume/clothing?
- What information/clues are provided in the setting?
- Is there balance in the shot? How much space is there between the characters? Where are the characters?
- Is the framing tight or loose?
- Where is our eye attracted first? Why?
- Props & Make-up? Purpose?
- Lighting: quality & placement & contrast (*hard/soft/natural; high-key/natural/low-key etc.*)

→ Remember: everything is there for a reason, what are the reasons??!

### 4) Cinematography How does cinematography affect the mood/tone/implication of the scene?

- Shot & angle types: how they contribute meaning?
- Obvious time of day? Significant?
- How many people are in the scene? Does the camera angle/focus/shot-type change for different people?
- Physically where does the action happen in the scene?
- Does the cinematography call attention to itself? useful or distracting...
- What's in focus/depth of field?
- Composition: balance & symmetry (rule of 3<sup>rds</sup>?)
- Camera, lens, & film stock choices; aspect ratio?
- Cinematographer (who? known for? assoc. w/director?)

### 5) Editing

- Length of takes, pacing, & rhythm?
- Does editing draw attention to itself? Is there an apparent filmmaker style in the editing?
- Any manipulation of plot time (flashbacks, parallel editing, slow motion, etc)?
- Are there master scenes? Type of cuts/transitions?
- Editor (who? known for? assoc. w/dir.)

### 6) Sound

- Sources: diegetic/non-diegetic, foley, on/off-screen
- Type: dialog, ambient, music/score, silence
- What role does sound play - how does it contribute to the situation/mood/meaning? Foreshadowing?
- Is there a soundtrack? Sound bridges? Clues to meaning?
- Sound designer? Sound mixer? Composer? (who? known for? assoc. w/dir.; worked in other mediums?)

## Part II. Additional aspects that add meaning in films\*\*

### 7) Critical Response and Reception

- How was the film received (box office) when released & since release?
- What do film critics and academics say about the film?

### 8) Director's Intent

- Who is the director?
- What is he/she known for (movies, style, other)?
- What is the director trying to say/show (implicit meaning/s)?
- How does the film engage the audience – how do they feel after viewing/how should they feel?

### 9) Address at least a couple of these cultural contexts:

Economic      Geographical      Historical      Institutional  
Political      Social      Technological

- Think: How does the cultural aspect provide and add meaning to the film? How do aspects of culture & society affect the film? What do the film's themes say about culture it's part of?

## Part III. Lastly...

### 10) Additional Requirements:

- Thorough explanation of the extract's relationship to the film as a whole
- Reason for choosing particular extract
- Include at least four appropriate resources (works cited)

\* 1-6 are your observations with support/explanations and some research

\*\* 7-9 require authentic, academic research

Name: \_\_\_\_\_