

Film Studies Summer Work



The first few weeks of the Film Studies course will be devoted to learning how to analyse a film at a basic level, analysing film form and film language. We will focus on key elements of film (cinematography, mise-en-scene, sound, editing, lighting, performance) and the ways that films are structured (narrative). We will also consider how spectators respond to film and create meaning through their interaction with the film text.

Your task

Select a film that you find interesting. Watch the opening scene of the film and make notes about the following elements of film form:

- The use of sound
- The use of music
- The use of colour
- Camera angles, framing and movement
- Pace and style of editing
- The use of mise-en-scene – costume, props, setting, gestures and positioning

Consider how each of these conveys information or meaning. For example, what do we learn about the character or their world? What themes are introduced? Do the elements signify a particular film genre? How is the audience affected by the elements? Use the Film analysis forms provided to help you in your analysis.

A glossary of key terms that should be used in your analysis (where appropriate) can be found using the following link: <https://filmglossary.ccnmtl.columbia.edu/term/>.

Once you have analysed the film, prepare a short (2-3 minute) presentation about the interesting use of film elements in your chosen opening scene.

