

Course Code FLM-221.4c

Course Title: Filmanalysis: Narration

Instructor: László Strausz

Course meets: Wednesday 12.00 – 13.30; Room -137

Course type: Seminar

Course description: The goal of the course is to make students familiar with the general principles of film analysis. Throughout the semester, we will discuss various aspects of narration (shots, composition, frame etc.) and the ways in which these elements can be used to create meaning. Each week, after a short overview of the basic terms in relation to the discussed topic, we will collectively analyze scenes from various films in order to develop skills to recognize and interpret the function of these elements. From the third week onwards, students will be asked to bring clips to class and hold a presentation on *one* narrative element of the scene in question. The emphasis of the course is the practicing of the skills of film analysis.

Weekly topics:

1. Introduction. Analysis and interpretation.
2. Macro- and micro structure of narration.
3. Point of view: range and depth
4. Narration and time
5. Classical paradigm
6. Midterm
7. Motivation, primacy effect
8. Schemes and templates
9. Gaps, retardation, redundancy
10. Student presentations
11. Student presentations
12. Final

Course requirement:

- 1. Presentation:** Each participant has to hold an in-class presentation about a chosen element of the filmic image during which s/he demonstrates the ability to recognize and interpret the device in question.
- 2. Film analyses:** During the semester, students will write two in-class film analyses of a screened scene chosen by the instructor. In these written analyses, students have to demonstrate that they can understand, recognize and interpret the elements of the filmic image.
- 3. Class participation:** Continuous attendance and in-class activity is required. Four or more absences result in an incomplete for the course.

Screened films: Select scenes and clips from various films selected by the instructor and participants.

Recommended reading: Bordwell: *Narration in the Fiction Film*. [Any edition will do]
