

Code: FLMD-102E.03

Course title: Introduction to Film Studies: Editing/montage

Course convenors: Teréz Vincze

Class time and place: Friday 12.30-14.00, room -137.

Course type: Seminar

Course content: 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 the filmic editing / montage 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 analyse scenes from various films in order 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* visual element of the scene in question. The emphasis of the course is the practicing of the skills of film analysis.

Topics of the individual classes:

1. Introduction, course overview.
2. Basic terminology of editing
3. History of early editing I.
4. History of early editing II.
5. Montage: graphic match
6. Montage: rhythm
7. Continuity editing: space
8. Continuity editing: time
9. Editing action
10. Editing and the long take
11. Vertical montage: sound
12. Exam: scene analysis

Requirements:

- 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. Exam - 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. Students arriving more than 10 minutes after the class starts will be marked as not present. No student will receive a final grade without an in-class presentation and the two film analyses.
- 4. Grade calculation:** 40% (midterm) + 40% (final) + 20% (in-class activity)

Learning outcomes: Students will (1) acquire a knowledge of the basic techniques and components of narrative film editing, (2) recognize specific applications of film style and form within the medium, (3) independently interpret specific stylistic techniques in motion picture sequences, and (4) develop critical thinking and writing skills in relation to film editing.

Indicative Reading: Bordwell–Thompson: *Film Art. An Introduction*. McGraw-Hill.
Murch: *In the Blink of an Eye*. Silman-James Press, 2001.
Dmytryk: *On Film Editing*. Focal Press, 1984.
Eisenstein: *Methods of Montage*. In: Eisenstein: *Film Form: Essays in Film Theory*. pp. 72–83.