

Code: FLMD-102E.05

Course title: Film Analysis Seminar: The Film Image

Course convenors: Beja Margitházi PhD

Class time and place: Tuesday 14.15-15.45, Múzeum krt. 6-8., lower level, room -137

Course type: Seminar /Only for 1st year student in Film MA, compulsory / Max. 15 ppl.

**Course content:** The goal of this introductory course is to make students familiar with the general principles of film analysis regarding the cinematic visual qualities. Throughout the semester, we will discuss various aspects of the filmic image (shots, composition, frame, depth of space, lights 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 movies in order to develop skills to recognize and interpret the function of these elements. From the 4th 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 aim of the course is practicing the skills of individual and collective analysis of cinematic texts.

**Weekly topics:**

1. Introduction. Analysis and interpretation.
2. The frame.
3. Composition I. Rules.
4. Composition II. Mise-en-scène.
5. Shots.
6. Continuity.
7. Midterm (written classroom test / laptop)
8. Depth of field.
9. Angles, point-of-view.
10. The mobile frame.
11. Lighting. Highlights and shadows.
12. Final (written classroom test / laptop)

**Requirements:**

1. **Presentation: scene analysis:** Each participant has to give an **5-7 minutes long in-class presentation** on an **1 minute long clip** presenting a chosen element of the filmic image. The analysis must demonstrate the ability of the student to recognize and interpret the device in question. The **choice** of clip should be discussed with the instructor **one or two weeks before the class**, and the detailed plan of the presentation must be emailed to the instructor in a document, not later than **5 days before the respective class**. The plan should contain the break-down of the scene (1), list of shots (2) + time markers of the highlighted parts (3).

2. **Written analyses:** During the semester, students will write two in-class film analyses of a screened scene chosen by the instructor (**Midterm** and **Final**). 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. Grade calculation: 20% (midterm) + 30% (final) + 20% (in-class activity) + 30% (scene analysis, individual presentation)

**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 presents. No student will receive a final grade without in-class presentations and two written analyses. First class on the first week!

**Recommended Reading:** Bordwell-Thompson: *Film Art. An Introduction*. McGraw-Hill. [Any edition]