

Course Code: FLM-221.13b

Course Title: Film Analysis 1: The Image and Film Analysis

Instructor: László Strausz

Course meets: Wednesday 12:00-13.30 @ - studio

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 the filmic image (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 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.

Weekly topics:

1. Introduction. Analysis and interpretation.
2. The frame.
3. Composition I.
4. Composition II.
5. Shots.
6. Continuity.
7. Midterm
8. Depth of field.
9. Angles, point-of-view.
10. The mobile frame.
11. Lights and colour.
12. Final

- Course requirement:**
- 1. Presentation:** Each participant has to give 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.
 - 4. Grade calculation:** 40% (midterm) + 40% (final) + 20% (in-class activity)

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

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