

Course code: FLM-221.11, BMI-FLMD-122E.02

Course title: Film Analysis 2: Editing / Montage

Instructor: László Strausz

Time and location: Tuesday 12.30-14.00 @ -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 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 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* 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. Continuity editing: space
6. Continuity editing: time
7. Exam I: scene analysis
8. Editing action I.
9. Editing action II.
10. Editing comedy
11. Editing dialogue
12. Joker class reserved for student presentations
13. Exam II: scene analysis

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. Students arriving more than 10 minutes after the class starts will be marked as not presents. 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.

Required 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]
Murch: In the Blink of an Eye. Silman-James Press, 2001.
Dmytryk: On Film Editing. Focal Press, 1984.
Sergei Eisenstein Selected Works v.1-3. I.B.Tauris, 2010.