Fall 9-1-2005

MAR 495.01: Approaches to Film

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Approaches to Film
MAR 495

Professor Sean O’Brien - Office hours: 10:30-12:00 in LA 145
Texts: e-reserve readings and hand-outs
Requirements: short film critiques, research paper due 11/22, class presentation, video shorts, comprehensive final exam

Course Schedule:
I. Conventions and Aesthetic

8/30 Introduction
9/1 Terminology and Conventions
Readings: Formalism/Realism readings

9/6 Realist approaches
Readings: “Kracauer” reading plus pgs. 178-190 in the “Editing” reading

9/8 Slingblade
Assignment – A two-page realist critique of “Sling Blade” (due 9/13)

9/13 Discussion of Slingblade / Formalism
Readings: Arnheim reading
9/15 Film: “Farewell My Concubine”
Writing assignment – a two-page formalist critique of “Farewell My Concubine”

9/20 Discussion of formalist film / Production
Production #1 assigned – due 10/6

9/22 Approaches to Production
Readings: Handouts

9/27 Approaches to Production
9/29 Approaches to Production

10/4 Video Art: Theory and Practice
Reading: Handout
10/6 Video Art / Production #1 due – viewing

10/11 Nietzsche on Tragedy: Synthesizing Dionysus and Apollo
Readings: Nietzsche readings

10/13 Film: “Thin Red Line”
Assignment: two-page Nietzschean critique of “The Thin Red Line”

10/18 Presentation #1
10/20 Editing
Readings: “Editing” reading
Production #2 assigned – due 11/1
10/25 Film – “Run Lola Run”  
   Assignment: two-page critique of “Run Lola Run” focusing on editing  
10/27 Presentation

II. Ideology: Form and Content

11/1 Ideology:  
   Readings: Marx reading  
   Production #2 due

11/3 Film form and Ideology  
   Readings: “Marxist Aesthetics”, the Commolli reading (e-reserve)  
   Hand-out on “The New Wave”  
   Production #3 assigned – due 11/22

11/8 New Wave film (to be decided)
11/10 Presentation

11/15 Ideology and Gender  
   Readings: excerpt from Simone de Beauvoir’s The Second Sex and the Laura Mulvey reading  
11/17 “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind”

11/22 “Thirteen Conversations about One Thing”  
   Research paper due
11/24 Thanksgiving

11/29 Presentation
12/1 Production #3 due – viewing and critique

12/6 Summary and review
12/8 Summary and review

12/15 10-12 Comprehensive Final Exam