

History 209—Europe Since 1945

Prof. Shaya

How to Talk About Film & History—The Elements of Film and More

1. **Mis-en-scène**—What is to be filmed

Setting

Selection and Arrangement of Objects

Appearance and Movement of People
and Animals

Decor, Acting

Space

Costume, Make-up

Lighting

2. **Cinematography**—How it is filmed

Film Stock—Color, Black & White, Tinting,
Graininess`

Lenses and Changes in Focus—Deep
Focus, Shallow Focus, Rack Focus

Camera Angle—High/Low Shots...

Framing

Camera Distance—Long Shot, Medium
Shot, Close-Up...

Camera Movement—Panning, Tracking,
Dolly Shot, Handheld, Crane Shot

Establishing shot

3. **Editing**—How that material is put together

Frequency, Smoothness, Rhythm of Edits

Duration of Shots

Continuity Editing (shooting and editing
that provides sense of coherence and
continuity)

Montage (thematic linking of unrelated
shots)

Quick cuts, Crosscutting

Transitions – dissolve, wipe

4. **Sound**

Soundscape

Music, Speech, Noise, Sound Effects,
Silence

Diegetic Sound (sound that originates
within the world of the film)

Non-Diegetic Sound (sound that
originates outside the film, such as
background music, voice-overs)

5. **Story and Narrative**

Story (the events of the film)

Character

Plot (the arrangement of those events)

Temporal Jumps

Point of View

Emotional Appeal

6. **Style and Genre**

Realistic or Documentary

Postmodern

Neorealism

Thriller

Film Noir

Horror

Romantic Comedy

Historical Drama

7. Some Ways to Think About Film & History

A Window on the Past

Accuracy? Of Details, Of Events

A Filmmaker's Perspective on His/Her
Time

Social or Political Commentary

Allegory

Historical Context (Production,
Audience, Reception)

(Adapted from Roberts and Wallis, *Introducing Film* [2001], *Yale Film Studies Film Analysis Web Site* 2.0 [2002] <http://classes.yale.edu/film-analysis/>, and Mareike Herrmann, "Film Analysis Worksheet")