Length and Due Dates

Length: 5 pages, formatted as described in the “Essays” portion of the syllabus
First Draft Due: Tuesday, November 7, at beginning of class; bring in two electronic formats
Final Draft Due: Tuesday, November 14, bring in two electronic formats

Assignment: Scene Analysis

For this assignment, you will analyze a single scene from The Battle of Algiers, The Magnificent Ambersons, or Rear Window, making an argument about how the scene’s formal elements (mise-en-scene, design, cinematography, editing) function to develop characters and the relationships between them, organize plot, convey themes or communicate meaning. You may select from the following list of scenes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Battle of Algiers</th>
<th>The Magnificent Ambersons</th>
<th>Rear Window</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The planting of three bombs</td>
<td>• The car and sleighing trip</td>
<td>• Opening scene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The army's bombing of Ali La Pointe's hideout</td>
<td>• Eugene's letter to Isabel</td>
<td>• Lisa and Jeffries' lobster dinner</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines and Expectations

1. The key to the scene analysis assignment is focus. You will need to concentrate on how one or two formal elements perform one or two functions. A successful essay will pose a clear, defendable argument regarding the function of the scene’s formal elements and develop that argument over the course of the essay. Rather than offering a catalogue of your observations on the scene’s formal elements, the essay will make an argument about the function of those elements.

2. Remember that you are writing to an audience who has viewed the films. Therefore, you do not need to summarize the plot. Instead, you should incorporate summary, paraphrase, quotation, or description of images into an analysis. Each reference to the film should support your argument.

3. Do not forget the rich discussion that has taken place in class and on the electronic posting board. A review of your notes and the postings on a particular film may help you to ask key questions and shape your analysis.

4. When describing a film's plot or stylistic techniques, use the present tense (for example, "Lisa prepares dinner while Jeffries looks out the window," or "the camera focuses on the faces of the group hiding behind the wall").
5. Clips of all scenes for analysis are available online and on our shared drive in the computer lab. You can access our class “Clips” folder during public hours in Mary Gates 076. To access the high-bandwidth web version of the clips, go to the course web page, click “Materials,” and follow the link to the “Clips” page. You will have to sign in with your UW Net ID and password.

6. If you’re having difficulty devising an approach to the essay, or if you want to discuss ideas-in-progress, come to my office hours or email me to set up an appointment.

Grading

I will use this grading rubric to evaluate this essay. Failure to submit an essay draft or attend your scheduled conference will result in a 10-point deduction from the final grade, as revising from feedback constitutes an essential part of the essay assignment. Late essay revisions will receive a 10-point deduction per day late, including weekends and holidays. I will make exceptions to the lateness policy only in cases of documented illness or family emergency. Please remember that technology glitches do not constitute valid excuses for lateness.