

**FILM APPRECIATION  
HUM 2003**

**Instructor: Dan May**

Class Time Wed 5:30-8:20 PM

Office: 109 Office Hours: Posted on MY office door

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<http://www.goodgravydesign.net>

<http://www.saumag.edu/art/dm.html>

**Purpose:**

Film as an Art form has developed from the late nineteenth century to become the narrative preference of the majority of Americans. In class, we will explore many genres of film (some would argue they are "movies" not films) from a variety of cultures to determine if there is such a thing as universal values, and why these movies resonate to some and not to others. The overriding theme will be "reveal" as we will look into hidden process, symbology and surprise endings.

We will analyze these films within a historical, artistic and technical context.

**Text:**

Required: **none**

**Grades:**

A=(93-100)

B=(92-85)

C=(84-75)

D=(74-66)

F=65 and below

**Attendance**

Absences will reduce your grade. **FOUR ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN AN "F."**

Since in all of the classes we will be watching movies and some may not be readily available for you to review outside of class, it is essential that you attend. Excused absences will only be allowed as outlined in the University handbook.

If for some reason an unavoidable absence occurs, reasonable accommodations will be made.

**Assignments:**

One Paper Subject Matter: TBA; Length 6 pages. MLA format. Style: Compare and Contrast

Students will view films and portions of films in class within a critical context of historical or philosophical significance and will be tested in that vein. Notes are encouraged...unless of course you have a photographic memory. Prior to the viewing, I will introduce the film and its significant attributes. Following most screenings, (if time allows) there will be a discussion/ question and answer time with a review of the material we watched with a time for your personal opinions. Level of participation in these discussions will determine a portion of the student's grade.

**Cell Phones:**

I collect them and mount them to my wall like dead animals. So, if you would like to keep them, turn them off before class. (No vibrating, no texting will be allowed.)...

Any one caught texting

in class in the immortal words of the floor walker in the film "Cool Hand Luke" will spend a night in the box.....

**Tests:**

**Midterm and Final.**

These tests will be based entirely on lectures and films.

## **Papers and Plagiarism**

Students should be aware of University Policy concerning this.

Essentially if you use a phrase or paragraph of someone else's writing in your own you must attribute it to that person through some form of citation. To do otherwise is plagiarism.

### ***Here is a direct quote from the University Handbook:***

#### *"A. Plagiarism*

*Plagiarism is the act of taking and/or using the ideas, work, and/or writings of another person as one's own.*

*1. To avoid plagiarism give written credit and acknowledgment to the source of thoughts, ideas, and/or words, whether you have used direct quotation, paraphrasing, or just a reference to a general idea.*

*2. If you directly quote works written by someone else, enclose the quotation with quotation marks and provide an appropriate citation (e.g., footnote, endnote, bibliography 0).*

*3. Research, as well as the complete written paper, must be the work of the person seeking academic credit for the course. (Papers, book reports, projects, and/or other class assignments are not to be purchased from individuals or companies which provide these services.)"*

### **Directors, Writers and Actors to be studied:**

Barbra Stanwyck

WC Fields

Mae West

Orson Welles

Humphrey Bogart

Gary Cooper

Dalton Trumbo

Graham Greene

Dashiell Hammett

Alfred Hitchcock

John Huston

Carol Reed

William Cameron Menzies

Roman Polanski

David Fincher

The Coen Brothers

The Wachowski Brothers

Richard Kelly

Tom Tykwer

Bryan Singer

Stephen Chow

Ben Affleck

John Patrick Shanley

and more...



*Still from the movie "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari"*

German expressionist: "Anti War Film:

The "evil" Dr Caligari who throughout the film murders and terrorizes a sleepy German mountain village is really the psychiatrist at an Asylum which treats war victims.

Story line "reveals" that the protagonist is insane and is being treated by Caligari.



*German Expressionism can be identified by severe disorienting perspective lines and stark color.*



## Fight Club: The fight against Corporate Control and The Victory of Self Determination?

### Excerpts from the Unabomber Manifesto:

"Freedom means having power; not the power to control other people but the power to control the circumstances of one's own life.(94) [The alternative] is totalitarian force.(219) Society requires people to live under conditions radically different from those under which the human race evolved and to behave in ways that conflict with the patterns of behavior that the human race developed [earlier].(46) Modern man's fate depends on the actions of persons remote from him whose decisions he cannot influence.(114) The value of opportunity is destroyed by the very fact that society gives it.(76) Thus, in order to avoid serious psychological problems, a human being needs [autonomous] goals whose attainment requires [autonomous] effort, and he must have a reasonable rate of success in attaining his goals.(37, 42) What makes us feel secure is not so much objective security as a sense of confidence in our ability to take care of ourselves.(68)

"People do not consciously and rationally choose the form of their society.(106) Science and technology constitute a mass power movement [that necessarily restricts our freedom].(90,114) [Serious] questions are asked about the foundations of scientific knowledge and about how, if at all, the concept of objective reality can be defined.(18) Thus there is no stable framework.(49) [Those with power react to this instability with self serving and futile efforts to engineer and control it with technology, resulting in abuse.] [The powerful] will be forced to use every practical means of controlling human behavior.(150) [Since man can not be adjusted] to this new environment by artificial re-engineering, he will be adapted to it through a long and painful process of natural selection [in the form of social conflict].(178) The line of conflict should be drawn between the mass of the people and the power-holding elite of industrial society.(190) [The only relevant] social conflicts [are those that address] the conflicts of power, elite vs. ordinary people, technology vs. nature.(191) [In resisting technology,] we must distinguish between two kinds of technology: [useful] small-scale technology and [abusive] organization-dependent technology.(208)"

### Words of Osama Bin Laden:

"...we are fulfilling a duty which God, Praise and Glory be to Him, decreed for us. We look upon those heroes, those men who undertook to kill the American occupiers in Riyadh and Khobar (Dhahran).  
Edit 31 Mar 1997 Source

All praise is due to Allah, who built the heavens and earth in justice, and created man as a favor and grace from Him.  
Edit 08 Sep 2007 Source

Politics

Is it legitimate for the US to label their enemies "terrorists"?

The US today as a result of the arrogant atmosphere has set a double standard, calling whoever goes against its injustice a terrorist. It wants to occupy our countries, steal our resources, impose on us agents to rule us based not on what God has revealed and wants us to agree on all these. If we refuse to do so, it will say you are terrorists. ... The US does not consider it a terrorist act to throw atomic bombs [killing] women, children and elderly people [...] in Japan.

Edit 31 Mar 1997 Source

Is capitalism good?

As you liberated yourselves before from the slavery of monks, kings, and feudalism, you should liberate yourselves from the deception, shackles and attrition of the capitalist system. If you were to ponder it well, you would find that in the end, it is a system harsher and fiercer than your systems in the Middle Ages. The capitalist system seeks to turn the entire world into a fiefdom of the major corporations under the label of "globalization" in order to protect democracy.

Edit 07 Sep 2007 Source

Science

Is there life after death?

Agree

To us, the life hereafter is really important, not this life.

Edit 05 Aug 1999 Source

***Tyler Durden : Fight Club***

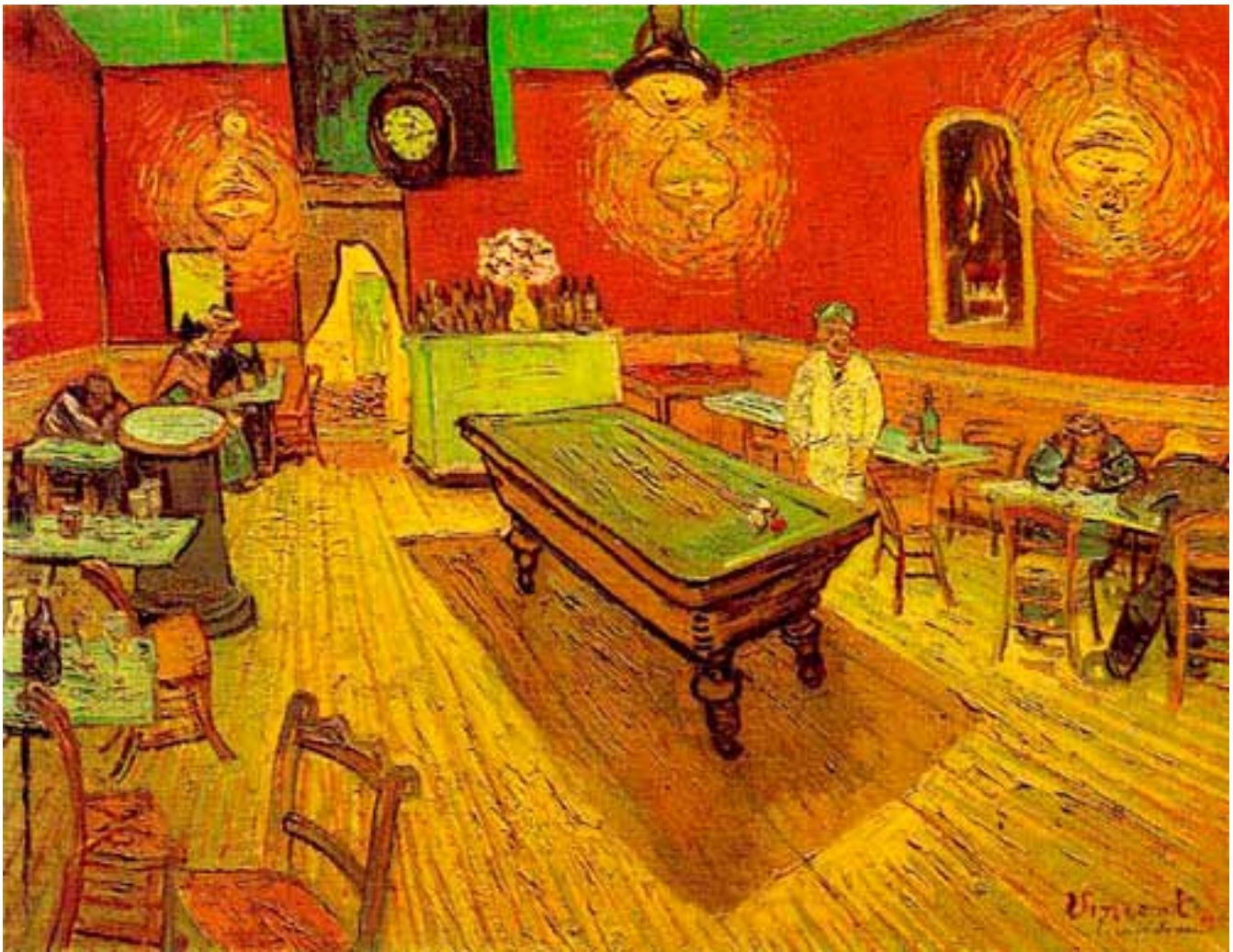
I see in fight club the strongest and  
smartest men who have ever lived --  
an entire generation pumping gas and  
waiting tables; or they're slaves  
with white collars.

Advertisements have them chasing cars  
and clothes, working jobs they hate  
so they can buy shit they don't need.

We are the middle children of  
history, with no purpose or place.

We have no great war, or great  
depression. The great war is a  
spiritual war. The great depression  
is our lives. We were raised by  
television to believe that we'd be  
millionaires and movie gods and rock  
stars -- but we won't. And we're  
learning that fact. And we're very,  
very pissed-off.

We are the quiet young men who listen  
until it's time to decide.



*Van Gogh's "Night Cafe"*

Colors are high key predominantly green elevating a sense of disorientation and despair

**Color**

## ***Composition***



***Leonardo Da Vinci***  
***"Virgin of the Rocks"***

Triangular composition  
whose spatial relationship  
holds to the same ratio  
as the Golden Proportion  
which is 1:1.618