

ENG 4317

Film Theory

Exam 2 Instructions and Questions

1. General Instructions

Please read all of the following instructions carefully for your exam and follow the Directions for Exam Submission at the end of this page. For full credit, you must submit your exam essay according to these instructions, so please do review them thoroughly.

Due Date:

Your Exam must be submitted before the deadline (see your Assignment Schedule for the correct due date/time) in order to receive credit. You will not be able to access the link to submit your Exam after the deadline has passed, so make sure that you give yourself plenty of time to submit before the deadline.

Writing Instructions:

For this exam, choose one of the possible questions and prepare a thorough response essay of **1000-1400 words**. Depending on the program and font you use to write your exam essay, this will be between 4-6 pages of written text. Regardless of the page length, however, you must write a minimum of 1000 words to meet the minimum requirement for this assignment. For your exam, write a well-organized essay that is clearly written with well-polished prose, grammar, and mechanics. Essays that don't reflect these guidelines will be marked down.

Make sure your exam essay has both a strong central thesis around which your essay is focused and well-organized paragraphs that support and develop your main idea. Be as specific as you can when referring to the film you are analyzing, but do not substitute plot summary for analysis.

You must incorporate at least three quoted passages into this exam essay as evidence to support any claims or observations you make. This is the absolute minimum—you may (and should) incorporate more quotes than this. These citations will come from the theoretical articles that have been assigned for each of our film styles. Do not use additional secondary sources on this exam. The point of incorporating these citations is both to develop your argument and to indicate to me that you have read and understood our assigned readings for class.

Make sure you present your quoted material with appropriate and effective signal phrases, and also make sure to use correct citations that clearly mark the page number of the text where you found the quote. For

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this exam essay, there is no need for a works cited page or footnotes to document the source you are quoting from. Just give the page number in a parenthetical citation and make sure to use an effective signal phrase to let me know which of our assigned sources you are quoting from. Do not use quoted material as filler or overuse quotes in place of your own argument and analysis.

Exams will be graded on clarity and completeness of responses, grammar and mechanics, and overall organization, length (including a clear notation of the word count), and the effectiveness and completeness of your use of quoted material. Make sure you follow the specific instructions for incorporating quoted material for each question.

Do not hand in an essay that reads like a draft; make an effort to carefully revise and polish your work. If you are unable to revise your work effectively, take your essay to the Writing Center for assistance with essay development and editing.

Formatting Instructions:

Make sure that you single-space the text of your exam essay and clearly indicate by number which question you are responding to at the top of your essay exam. Please do not re-type the question you are responding to since this creates an unmanageable amount of text in my submission inbox.

For full credit, count the number of words for your essay and write the total on a separate line in **bold** font at the end of your essay. Exams with no word count (or with inaccurate word count) will be marked down.

Submission Instructions:

Once you have finished writing your exam essays, save them on your computer. Make sure you carefully follow all of the Directions for Exam Submission written in bold at the end of this page.

Choose the “Submit Exam Assignment” link from the list of links in blue on the left side of this page. You must use the Assignment Link on Blackboard to submit your Exam.

If you can't see the blue links, you may have to drag the left edge of this dialogue box to uncover the other dialogue box with your link on it. If you still cannot find it, contact the COLT office (the office that maintains the Blackboard server and staffs a HELP Desk to address all of your technology questions, issues, and concerns) for assistance. You can reach the HELP Desk by calling 318-5327 or 381-2979 during regular business hours (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm).

All exams must be submitted before the deadline. No late submissions accepted.

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2. Exam Questions

Choose one of the following questions for you exam essay (900-1200 words):

1. **Formalist Film Theory:**

Focusing on Brian DePalma's film *Body Double*, argue how this particular film fits into the Formalist Film paradigm, focusing on some of the elemental characteristics of Formalist Film. Make sure that you ground your argument in the theoretical essays we read for this film style. Of your minimum three quotes for this paper, you must include at least one quote from the Russian Formalists' essays (those by Eisenstien, Kuleshev, Pudovkin, and/or Arnheim), and must include at least one from the other essays we read for this unit (Ahmed, McKibbin, and/or Cvetkovich) as well as specific examples from the film to support your argument. Additional quotes can be chosen from any of the six essays indicated above.

2. **Formalist Film Theory:**

Focusing on **one** of the following Brian DePalma's films—*The Untouchables*, *Mission Impossible*, *Snake Eyes*, or *Dressed to Kill*—argue how this particular film (just pick one) fits into the Formalist Film paradigm, focusing on some of the elemental characteristics of Formalist Film. Make sure that you ground your argument in the theoretical essays we read for this film style. Of your minimum three quotes for this paper, you must include at least one quote from the Russian Formalists' essays (those by Eisenstien, Kuleshev, Pudovkin, and/or Arnheim), and must include at least one from the other essays we read for this unit (Ahmed, McKibbin, and/or Cvetkovich) as well as specific examples from the film to support your argument. Additional quotes can be chosen from any of the six essays indicated above.

3. **Auteur Theory:**

Focusing on a variety of films directed by Brian De Palma, including *Body Double*, *Snake Eyes*, *Mission Impossible*, *Dressed to Kill*, *Femme Fatale*, *Carrie*, *Scarface*, and/or *The Untouchables* argue how his cinematic style plays itself out across a selection of **three or four** of his films. For this approach, you have to focus on one or two elemental points of De Palma's auteur approach then trace these back through a number of films. Ground your argument in the essays we have read for class (particularly those by Astruc, Sarris, and Wollen) and make sure that you incorporate several citations from these essays as well as specific examples from the films you choose to analyze in your assignment.

4. **Auteur Theory:**

Focusing on a variety of films directed by Quentin Tarantino, including *Reservoir Dogs*, *Jackie Brown*, *Inglorious Basterds*, *Kill Bill* (Volume I and/or II), *Death Proof*, and/or *Pulp Fiction* argue how his cinematic style plays itself out across a selection of **three or four** of his films. For this approach, you have to focus on one or two elemental points of Tarentino's auteur approach then trace these back through a number of films. Ground your argument in the essays we have read for class (particularly those by Astruc, Sarris, and Wollen) and make sure that you incorporate several citations from these essays as well as specific examples from the films you choose to analyze in your assignment.

Note: While each question mandates that you use certain theoretical essays to support and develop the argument you present in your exam, you may, in addition, quote from any of the essays that have been assigned this semester (including our optional essays). Do not, however, use other additional primary or secondary theoretical sources that were not assigned for class as part of this essay exam.

Directions For Exam Submission:

You must submit your Exam through the Assignments Link by pasting your completed essays into the “Submission” dialogue box AFTER you click the “Enable HTML Creator” button
(If you cannot enable the HTML Creator, call the COLT office for assistance)

DO NOT cut and paste your essays into the dialogue box until after you have enabled the HTML Creator

DO NOT submit your Exam as an attachment and

DO NOT paste any text or comments into the “Add Comment” dialogue box.

After you have correctly pasted both of your essays into the Submissions dialogue box, make sure you review the text and check to see that all text has been copied.

When you are sure that your entire exam has been copied, hit the “Submit” button at the bottom of the page to turn in your Exam.

NOTE:

If you can't get your exam submitted through the Assignment Link on Blackboard, then send it to me through your Blackboard email account before (or just past) the deadline.

To submit via email, simply paste your exam into the body text of the message and write “EXAM 1 Submission” in the Subject Line.