FILM AUTHORS | ALFRED HITCHCOCK

FILM ANALYSIS PAPER

Your assignment is to write a 2,000 word research paper on one of the topics listed below. Your paper should combine detailed film analysis, original insights, and outside research relevant to your topic. **Your research must draw from at least 4-5 scholarly sources not contained in the course readings.** If you write about a film we have analyzed in class, you will be expected to add considerably to ideas already raised in lectures and discussions. Please do not write again about the film you researched for your first paper.

**Suggested Topics**

[1] **INFLUENCES ON HITCHCOCK:** Trace the influence of German Expressionism on Hitchcock’s work, either by examining Expressionist elements in a single film or choosing one element of Expressionism (such as chiaroscuro lighting or an interest in altered psychological states) and tracing its appearance in several films. What does Hitchcock take from his experience working in Germany in the 1920s? How does his work transform Expressionist elements in a different context?

[2] **HITCHCOCK’S INFLUENCE ON OTHERS:** Trace Hitchcock’s influence on a subsequent film or filmmaker. What does this filmmaker/film take from Hitchcock’s themes and techniques and how are they transformed in a new context? Choose one of the following:
   - Hitchcock-inspired films from the French New Wave: *The Bride Wore Black* (Truffaut, 1968) or *Elevator to the Gallows* (Malle, 1958)
   - Experimental re-workings of Hitchcock films: *Sans soleil* (Marker, 1983) or *Le confessionnal* (LePage, 1995)

[3] **HITCHCOCK AND HISTORY:** Hitchcock’s career spanned major historical events of the 20th century. How do his films respond to and intervene in contemporary social and political events? Choose one of the following:
   - The rise of fascism in inter-war Europe: (*The Lady Vanishes, Sabotage, The 39 Steps* and/or *The Man Who Knew Too Much*)
   - World War II (*Lifeboat, Bon Voyage, Aventure Malgache, Saboteur, Foreign Correspondent* and/or *Memories of the Camps*)
   - The Sexual Revolution (*Psycho, Marnie* and/or *Frenzy*)
   - The Cold War (*North by Northwest, Torn Curtain* and/or *Topaz*)

[4] **THEMATIC LINKS/THEORETICAL QUESTIONS:** Analyze the development of one of Hitchcock’s central themes, using feminist theory, queer theory or other relevant theoretical concepts in your analysis. Choose one of the following:
   - Sexual violence (*The Lodger, Blackmail, Psycho, Marnie, Frenzy*)
   - Doubling (*Strangers on a Train, Shadow of a Doubt, Vertigo, Psycho*)
   - Queer deviance and criminality (*Murder!, Rebecca, Rope, Strangers on a Train, Psycho*)
   - Voyeurism (*Rear Window, Vertigo, Psycho*)
[5] Production Techniques: Analyze the effect that a particular production technique had on Hitchcock's work. Choose one of the following:

- Long takes: Rope and/or Jamaica Inn
- Restricted settings: Lifeboat and/or Rear Window
- Sound design: Blackmail, Murder! and/or The Birds

[6] Hitchcock as Celebrity: How did Hitchcock cultivate his public reputation through interviews, television appearances, publicity appearances, and by appearing in trailers, ad campaigns and in his own films? Did this change over time and/or in different contexts? Trace the promotional campaigns for two films and/or Alfred Hitchcock Presents.

[7] A topic of your choice: If you’d like to pursue another topic, please email Prof. Stamp for approval [stamp@ucsc.edu].

⚠️ Please remember ⚠️

- Begin with a strong thesis statement.
- Avoid plot summary; aim for detailed cinematic analysis using precise terms.
- Avoid lengthy quotations from the readings; paraphrase authors in your own words to demonstrate an understanding of their ideas.
- Use proper citation format, including a Works Cited page.
- Avoid contractions (it’s, didn’t, can’t, isn’t).
- Italicize or underline film titles.
- Include page numbers on your essay.
- Proof read and spell-check your work.

⚠️ Due in class Thursday, December 11 ⚠️

Absolutely no extensions will be granted for this assignment. No late papers can be accepted.

Plagiarism or any act of academic misconduct will be reported to your college provost and will result in failure of the class.