Final Exam Study Guide

Exam Format

• The final is a cumulative exam covering all screenings, readings, lectures, and discussions from the first class to the last.
• The exam will consist of 6 essay topics asking you to compare 2-3 films from different units of the class in relation to a particular question. Choose 3 of these topics and write an essay for each (ie, 3 essays total).
• Each essay should be approximately 5 paragraphs long (ie, introduction, 3 paragraphs of analysis, conclusion).
• Essays should draw on broad concepts from lectures and readings, film analyses we built during discussions in lecture and section, and your own original insights.
• No film substitutions will be allowed. You are required to write about the films listed in the question.
• If you wrote about one of the films screened in class for your final paper, you may not choose an exam question that features the same film. (Everyone is permitted to answer questions about Chungking Express.)
• No aids of any kind will be permitted during the exam. Students caught cheating will fail the class.
• Bring your own blue books. Blue books with pages ripped out or missing will not be graded.

Exam Material

The following films will be covered on the exam:

- The Extras (Nabil Maleh, Syria 1993)
- Chungking Express (Wong Kar-Wai, Hong Kong 1994)
- Shadow of a Doubt (Alfred Hitchcock, US 1943)
- Memories of Underdevelopment (Gutiérrez, Cuba 1968)
- The Conversation (Francis Ford Coppola, US 1974)
- Vagabond (Agnès Varda, France 1985)
- High School (Fredrick Wiseman, US 1968)
- The Devil Never Sleeps (Lourdes Portillo, US/Mex 1994)
- Meshes of the Afternoon (Maya Deren, US 1943)
- A Movie (Bruce Conner, US 1958)
- Let the Right One In (Tomas Alfredson, Sweden 2009)
- Double Indemnity (Billy Wilder, US 1944)
- Sink or Swim (Su Friedrich, US 1990)

The following topics will be covered on the exam:

- Mise-en-scène
- Cinematography
- Editing
- Sound
- Narrative and Narration
- Documentary film
- Experimental cinema
- Film genre and ideology
- Films in Historical Context: Film Noir
- Race and Gender on screen

All films are available for re-screening in the David Kirk Media Center at McHenry Library.
Exam questions will not ask you about clips screened in class or in discussion sections; nor will they ask about the following films listed on the syllabus that we did not have time to screen in class: Mothlight, Bottoms and Lip.

Study Tips

- Review readings and lecture notes, outlining the major issues related to each of the topics above. Be sure that you can discuss each topic in detail.
- Review your screening notes and notes taken during discussions in order to re-familiarize yourself with the themes of each film, as well as its notable techniques.
- Since exam questions will ask you to mix and match films and topics not necessarily discussed together in the class, brainstorm possible connections and comparisons.

The exam will be held
Wednesday, December 11th
7:30 – 10:30 pm
Oakes 105