

SECRETS & LIES IN FILM

Semester 1

Lecturer: Shalimar Preuss

Course Description:

Focusing on films from the last 80 years, we will explore filmmaking as an art form.

We will study and evaluate these films and interpret the meaning conveyed by their form and poetics. We will analyze narrative structure, cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, sound design and -above all- the *meaningful* interaction of these elements.

We will attempt to articulate a particular film's hidden structure (its « secret ») and how this film shapes our perception of reality (its *construct* of this reality that we might refer to as the pretty « lies » the film uses to reveal a certain truth about the world).

Goals:

Students will be invited to identify and analyze formal choices and techniques in the assigned films, attending to the greater aesthetic significance and stakes of these choices within a particular film

Overall, the goal of the course is to help students develop a set of skills that will enable them to experience all forms of cinema in new and exciting (and critical) ways.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to watch the assigned films before class.

Students are expected to participate in class discussion.

Evaluation:

40% of final grade: individual oral presentation of weekly topic analyzed in assigned film.

40% of final grade: you will break-down and analyze a given sequence from one of the films from the course and create your own "Screenecast" : a video in which the scene plays on, while your audio commentary guides us to see what caught your eye (3 minutes max).

20% of final grade: class participation.