

Style and Narrative Analysis



Topic for Fall 07:

Modernism and its Vernaculars

Wednesdays 6 to 8:40

Restivo

The course will focus on Hitchcock and film noir (though we'll start with a session on Expressionism/Surrealism, and we'll end with one of Godard's "Paris films" and with *Taxi Driver*). The overarching goal will be to explore how the styles and narratives of Hitchcock and of film noir express—in vernacular or "common" language—the project of modernity. The course will be organized by three broad rubrics: "objects," "spaces," and "lifeworlds."

The film studies readings will likely consist of the books by Naremore and Dimendberg on noir, Orr's book on Hitchcock, and selected articles.

Theoretical readings will likely be drawn from Walter Benjamin, Henri Lefebvre, Jameson, Zizek, Mike Davis, and probably one or two chapters from Deleuze, *Movement-image*.

Course requirements will likely be a final critical paper [submitted in stages: proposal, annotated bibliography, paper]; several short textual analyses; and a 5 or 10-minute individual presentation of the film of a particular week.