



Film Studies: An Introduction

Ed Sikov

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Ed Sikov builds a step-by-step curriculum for the appreciation of all types of narrative cinema, detailing the essential elements of film form and systematically training the spectator to be an active reader and critic. Sikov primes the eye and mind in the special techniques of film analysis. His description of mise-en-scene helps readers grasp the significance of montage, which in turn reveals the importance of a director's use of camera movement. He treats a number of fundamental factors in filmmaking, including editing, composition, lighting, the use of color and sound, and narrative. *Film Studies* works with any screening list and can be used within courses on film history, film theory, or popular culture. Straightforward explanations of core critical concepts, practical advice, and suggested assignments on particular technical, visual, and aesthetic aspects further anchor the reader's understanding of the formal language and anatomy of film.

Film Studies: An Introduction Details

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Laura Lou says

This was a great introduction to film analysis and understanding. If you are already familiar with these aspects the book will be dull, otherwise it's an easy but informative book on basic film techniques.

Mike Smith says

Film Studies: An Introduction begins with the assumption that all narrative films express some kind of meaning, presumably intentional on the part of the filmmakers. The purpose of this book, which is an introductory-level post-secondary text book in film studies, provides the basic concepts for analyzing a film's meaning and writing a term paper about it. I think it's important to understand that this is not a book about film criticism. That is, it's not about judging the artistic merit of a film, as a film critic might. It's about dissecting a film to understand what the filmmakers' artistic intent might have been.

Sikov covers a variety of topics, including mise-en-scene (the totality of everything that appears on screen), camera issues (angle, distance, movement, lighting), editing, sound, narrative structure, screenwriting, filmmakers (auteur theory), acting performance, genre, and special effects. The writing is clear and concise. Each chapter ends with an exercise you can perform on your own, where you analyze a shot or a sequence and write down your observations and findings.

Sikov includes a few anecdotes from mostly American films, but you don't need to have seen them to understand his points. He does provide a sample term paper about the film *Fight Club* that reveals some key plot points, so if you haven't seen *Fight Club* and want to, don't read that section!

Cory Blystone says

Beautifully explains film studies from an educational standpoint, and introduces how to critique a film using the correct wording.

Mohamed Adwi says

I didn't read it to be film critic as much as I aimed to develop skill of a critical watching of movies and enhance my ability as recipient to cinema. I can say that this book was very helpful at achieving my aim.

Steen Ledet says

A perfectly decent film studies textbook which paradoxically gets better by not having (too many)

illustrations. The lack of illustrations makes the book more affordable, which is a good thing considering the price average for film textbooks.

Sikov's book is also concise and brief, which allows the teacher to add their own detail and their own examples, while the students won't feel drowned in readings. Of course, this reduces the amount of detail but that can at times be a good thing.

For non-film majors, this is a good book.

Jonathan K says

A really great intro, but now I need more. This is a good primer for learning how to analyze film, but I'd be interested to get a bit more technical

anjana says

i can't remember when i started this but what a wonderfully detailed book

Rasha says

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