Film Noir
Spring 2000
National Chiao Tung University

Course Ref. No.: 1807
Course number: DFL 2301
Instructor: Kien Ket Lim (limk@cc.nctu.edu.tw)
Office: F314-C (Tel: 3-1792 -- during the office hour only)
Office hour: 1:00-2:00 PM, Thursday, and by appointment.
Class session time: 10:10 AM – 1:00 PM (Friday)
Classroom: F210
Required textbook: The Film Noir Reader 黑色電影讀本
A Short Guide to Writing about Film. By Timothy Corrigan.
Recommended: MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 5th ed.
All films below with NCTU’s call numbers at Audio-Visual Center.

Recommended Websites
1. For filmography: Amazon’s Internet Movie Database at http://amazon.imdb.com/
2. For the movie scripts of the more recent films:
   Drew's Script-O-Rama at http://www.script-o-rama.com/
   The Daily Script at http://www.dailyscript.com/
3. For paper format: Modern Language Association at http://www.mla.org/ (Click on “MLA Style.”)

Course Requirements
1. Class attendance is mandatory. All students must join the discussion on the assigned reading and viewing materials.
2. Students are required to write a film log for each film they are assigned to see. The log must be handed in after each viewing. Those who get an ‘A’ for all their logs by Week 11 (inclusive) may reduce the workload in keeping the logs. Consult the instructor for the detail.
3. Each student must submit a one-page outline of his/her term paper by May 19. The term paper of 10-15 pages and in MLA style format must be handed in on June 23 by noon. There are no examinations.
4. Grading scale:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class discussion, participation, and attendance</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film logs</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
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Week 1—2/25  Noir at Its Peak
Double Indemnity (Billy Wilder, Paramount, 1944) 交大 LDF000577
Reading: Claire Johnston, “Double Indemnity,” 100-11.

Week 2—3/3  The End of Noir
Kiss Me Deadly (Robert Aldrich, Parklane, 1955)
Reading: Alain Silver, “Kiss Me Deadly: Evidence of a Style,” 209-35.

Week 3—3/10  Critical Interlude I
No screening.

Week 4—3/17  Noir de temps perdu
Out of the Past (Jacques Tourneur, RKO, 1947)
Readings: Spencer Selby, “Out of the Past (1947),” 65-70
James Naremore, excerpt from More than Night, 175-86.

Week 5—3/24  Noir of Woman's Plight
Mildred Pierce (Michael Curtiz, First National Pictures, 1945)

Week 6—3/31  The Film Which Could Have Been Noir
Rear Window (Alfred Hitchcock, Paramount, 1954) 交大 LDF000411
Recommended: Vertigo (Alfred Hitchcock, Paramount, 1958) 交大 LDF000546
Readings: David Reid and Jayne L. Walker, excerpt from “Strange Pursuit,” 86-91.
Timothy Corrigan, Chap. 1 of A Short Guide to Writing about Film, 1-15.

Week 7—4/7  Spring Break
No class.
Reading: Timothy Corrigan, Chap. 2 of A Short Guide to Writing about Film, 16-33.

Week 8—4/14  Period Neo-noir
Chinatown (Roman Polanski, Paramount, 1974) 交大 LDF000675
Recommended: L. A. Confidential (Curtis Hanson, Warner Brothers, 1997) DVD000077

Week 9—4/21  Apocalyptic Noir
Taxi Driver (Martin Scorsese, Columbia/Sony, 1976) 交大 LDF000526
Week 10—4/28  Sci-fi Noir
*Blade Runner* (Ridley Scott, Ladd, 1982/1992) 交大 LDF000671
Recommended: *The Wicked City* 妖獸都市 (Peter Mak 參大杰, Golden Princess Film, 1992). Written by Tsui Hark (徐克).
Readings: David N. Meyer, “*Blade Runner*—The Director’s Cut,” 56-58.
Frank Krutnik, “Genre and the Problem of *Film Noir*,” 15-29, 229-33.

Week 11—5/5  Femme Fatale I
*Body Heat* (Lawrence Kasdan, Ladd, 1981)
Reading: Timothy Corrigan, Chaps. 3 & 4 of *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*, 34-77, 78-105.

Week 12—5/12  Femme Fatale II
*Basic Instinct* (Paul Verhoeven, Corolco, 1992) 交大 LDF000163
Reading: J. Hillier, “Forty Years of Change,” 6-37.

Week 13—5/19  Family Noir
*Blue Velvet* (David Lynch, De Laurentiis, 1986) 交大 LDF000127
Recommended: *Eyes Wide Shut* (Stanley Kubrick, Warner Brothers, 1999)
Important: Submit a one-page outline of your proposed term paper.

Week 14—5/26  Critical Interlude III
Term Paper Workshop.
Reading: Timothy Corrigan, Chapters 5 & 6 of *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*, 106-50.

Week 15—6/2  Noir by Women
*Blue Steel* (Kathryn Bigelow, Lightning Pictures, 1990) 交大 LDF000084
Reading: Elizabeth Cowie, “Film Noir and Women.” Read pages 121-37, 159-60.

Week 16—6/9  Noir by Noirs
*Boyz N the Hood* (John Singleton, Columbia, 1991)
Recommended: *Devil in a Blue Dress* (Carl Franklin, TriStar, 1995)
Reading: Manthia Diawara, “*Noir by Noirs*,” 261-78.

Week 17—6/16  French Noir
*La Femme Nikita* (Luc Besson, Gaumont, 1990) 交大 LDF000425
Recommended: *Mauvais sang* (Leos Carax, Unité Trois, 1986)
Timothy Corrigan, Chap. 7 of *A Short Guide to Writing about Film*, 151-68.

Week 18—6/23
Term paper due.