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# Film: A Critical Introduction (3rd Edition)



## Synopsis

Film: A Critical Introduction provides readers with the skills needed to successfully critique and analyze film and teaches strategies for translating ideas about film into written criticism and analysis. Intricate discussions of the current issues in film theory, from sound production to documentaries, keep readers' perspectives on film fresh and informed. Part I introduces readers to the importance of film analysis, offering helpful strategies for discerning the way films produce meaning. Part II examines the fundamental elements of film, including narrative form, mise en scène, cinematography, editing, and sound, and shows how these concepts can be used to interpret films. Part III frames the debates around ideological criticism, national and transnational cinema, and genre and auteur theory that animate contemporary film scholarship.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Film: A Critical Introduction by Maria Pramaggiore and Tom Wallis, both of North Carolina State University Film: A Critical Introduction is an exciting new offering that provides students with a comprehensive introduction to film studies. It does not merely address techniques and terminology used in film production and film criticism; but also emphasizes thinking and writing critically and effectively about film. Organized in three parts, the text focuses on the fundamentals of film analysis before moving on to more complex topics. Parts I and II teach students to recognize how the components of film-narrative, mise en scène, cinematography, editing, and sound-work together to produce meaning within an individual film text. Part III introduces readers to interpretive frameworks that treat cinema as a cultural institution. This section encourages readers to move

beyond textual analysis and consider the relationship between film and culture. Special Features Emphasizes critical thinking and writing about film. Illustrates basic film concepts in context and in depth. Techniques in Practice; sections offer detailed analyses emphasizing how one film uses the techniques being discussed. Case Study; essays on key films develop critical thinking and writing skills, offering the option of studying the similarities and differences among Classical Hollywood texts, post-studio Hollywood texts, documentaries, avant-garde films, and art cinema films. Discusses how students can develop rhetorical strategies for incorporating production history and film scholarship as they think and write about films. Praise for Film: A Critical Introduction; I thought this was one of the best introduction to film books I've ever read. It's beautifully written, extremely knowledgeable, current, and complete. As the authors recognize, teaching introduction to film involves teaching writing about film. This book's efforts to incorporate the writing process in stages which unfold through the chapters is brilliant; Cynthia Erb, Wayne State University; Pramaggiore and Wallis are exceptional writers for this audience; The writing is clear and compelling. The chapter selection and sequence is manageable and useful. The insights and progression of thought are solid. The idea to emphasize student writing in each chapter is a real strength of this text; They cover an astonishing amount of ground with a minimum of fuss; Dann L. Pierce, University of Portland; This text is extremely well-organized and the examples cited are dead-on and up-to-date; This text makes both contemporary and classical references, certain to make its point clear to those students who are beginners and who have not seen many classical films; Walton Jones, University of California, San Diego --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

This is an interesting review for me to write because I originally bought this book for a university course that required it, but am now reading it on my own. It's a fascinating book that breaks down the different departments of film production in very easy-to-understand ways. There are plenty of pictures and, as evidenced by the cover art, screenshots and quotes from the relatively recent films (Hint: That's Clive Owen in "Inside Man" on the cover, an excellent heist film. If you haven't had the pleasure of viewing it, I suggest you make time.) The book goes into great detail of a thousand different parts of cinema, such as *mise en scene*, editing and the sociology of cinema. What really makes this book accessible to me (I was taking this class as an elective, not as part of a major or minor) was that it breaks each new concept down and uses popular films to illustrate the point. When talking about a certain lighting angle the book may cite "Good Night and Good Luck" and show pictures to hammer home the lighting idea. All in all, a fantastic read. Enough information for a

seasoned theater-lover to enjoy, and enough illustration and pop-culture references to keep the beginner engaged as well. 5 stars.

Would be a decent textbook for junior school. Incredibly frustrating to read in college. Explains the most basic concepts, like "what acting is" or "how humans speak" in excruciating details.

Had to get this for a class and renting was much cheaper than buying. As far as college course books go it's not as dry and boring as many are and keeps your interest. Format is set up well and is easily understood and very acceptable. It's nice because it's not too big or heavy. My husband needed this for his class and although he's only a couple of chapters in it's been a nice text book so far.

like most intro class text books it skims over the very basics its a good start

Pretty basic, but well done. A good starting place for someone looking to move into the world of film critique.

Good condition

I used it just about every week for my college class. It is a very good book, with great explanations.

Loved this book for my college class. Gives you a different perspective into the world of movies. You'll truly enjoy this book!

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