

Portfolio 1: Screening Report(s) Due: Monday, July 23, 2012

In order to complete this assignment, you will first need to have a look at the glossary of film terms found on the course website. If you have not done so already, please familiarize yourself with this resource in its entirety. Once you have done so, choose three terms that interest you, and which will allow you to successfully write a one page* screening report for each of the following movies, applying each term to a separate film:



Rear Window



*Jeanne Dielman,
23 Quai du Commerce,
1080 Bruxelles*



Taxi Driver

Writing a screening report is usually seen as a preliminary activity, largely done in preparation for further viewing, writing, discussion, or examinations. Therefore, you should feel free to keep several audiences and various purposes in mind while “screening” the films and taking notes for this assignment, as this is a helpful practice to develop.

Unlike other forms of writing on film, such as movie reviews or critical essays, screening reports avoid strong opinions or particular arguments of any kind, but this does not mean that your judgment is not needed, as it will be crucial throughout the entire writing process. One of our primary goals at this stage of the semester is learning to view films closely, and developing a discriminating eye regarding elements of films which will assist us later.

Watch each film with a questioning eye, paying particular attention to those aspects that you plan to address most closely. Continuously keeping the proverbial journalistic terms of ‘who,’ ‘what,’ ‘where,’ ‘when,’ ‘why,’ and ‘how’ in mind throughout should be helpful in this regard.

You may attempt to place the explicit focus of each report within some of the broader aspects of the film at hand if you feel confident in doing so. You may also incorporate other terms from the glossary into your writing if this helps you to accomplish your goals for each section of this assignment, but you should try to rely primarily on your chosen terms throughout. You may also venture a thought or two regarding what the film’s overall message might be, if this helps to make your overall accounts more clear.

As you will be choosing **three different terms**, and dedicating **each to a particular film**, your approach will be decidedly unique in nature. Because your presentations of these terms as they relate to these particular works will be influenced by your own viewing experiences, this will certainly make for some interesting reading!

Finally, remember that description should be your primary mode of writing, so use specific, concrete language throughout. Use your imaginations, and have fun!

* Feel free to write a bit more than a page for any or all of your individual reports, and please hand in your work in a pocket folder.