

## C. Relationships within the film text

Evidence: Textual analysis and sources.

- To what extent does the student demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which the **cultural context** of the film and a selection of the identified **film elements** relate to each other, as well as to the chosen film text as a whole (this might also feasibly include, where appropriate, relationships to other film texts)?

<b>Cultural Context</b> <i>(examples of relevant cultural points from DP Film guide)</i>	<b>EXAMPLES of how it can relate to the film elements</b> <i>(this is <b>not</b> an exhaustive list...find and create your own links based on your chosen film and relevant contexts)</i>
<b>Economic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic classes and issues explored within a film's narrative</li> <li>The economic message or point-of-view of the filmmaker</li> <li>The economic influence or impact caused by a film or the film's production methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is mise-en-scene used to portray specific socioeconomic classes? What about other film elements such as cinematography, editing, sound, etc.?</li> <li>Are any motifs, symbols or themes used to represent different socioeconomic classes within the film? How and why?</li> <li>Does the socioeconomic status of each character play a significant role in the narrative? How so?</li> <li>Are people from a particular class portrayed negatively or positively? If so, what seems to be the point of that portrayal?</li> <li>Does the film appear to criticize the socioeconomic status quo? In what ways and what aspects?</li> <li>Is nearly everything of value in this movie something that can be bought or sold? Or does the film portray values that fall outside the realm of economics?</li> <li>Was there any aspect of the film's production which had a broader economic impact? (e.g. a pioneering use of a new film element, such as digital special effects, which created a whole new market of jobs...this links to institutional contexts as well)</li> </ul>
<b>Geographic</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The geographic location of a film's origin</li> <li>The region that is depicted in the film</li> <li>The colonial or post-colonial legacy addressed by the film</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does the film use its specific geographic locations to help tell its story?</li> <li>How are specific film elements (cinematography, sound, genre codes and conventions, etc.) used to cinematically portray the place and space of the film's geographic location? Is the cinematic portrayal of the location flattering? Negative? Why? (Be sure to always link this discussion to the filmmaker's intentions.)</li> </ul> <p><i>(The following questions can also relate to social cultural contexts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given what you know about the place or time portrayed in the movie, are there groups of people not shown or barely acknowledged in the movie who are nonetheless significant in the geographic location the film is set within? Why do you think they are not portrayed in this movie?</li> <li>Does the movie use visual cues in lighting, camera angles, editing decisions, costume, makeup, or actors' gestures – to establish that a character or a group of characters is clearly the 'other' – strange, foreign, or menacing type of person who falls outside the 'normal' majority? If so, what are the cues and how do they work?</li> <li>Is the movie seemingly content to reinforce traditional stereotypes of minority characters? Or does it seem to be working against them and how so?</li> </ul>
<b>Historical</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The period in time in which a film was created</li> <li>The era or cultural movement depicted in the film</li> <li>The events or notable historical figures depicted in the film</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How do the themes and ideas within the film's narrative comment on/relate to the period of time which the film was created? How does the story of the film provide historical context about a specific period of history?</li> <li>Is the film's story a metaphor for a larger historical event/era?</li> <li>Have the filmmakers discussed any deeper historical meanings in the film? What have critics said about the film's historical context?</li> <li>How are actual historical events or figures represented cinematically (in terms of the look, sound, editing, etc.)? Are they "accurate" or have creative liberties been taken by the filmmakers? Why?</li> <li>Does the film belong to a particular historical film movement (e.g. film noir, the French New Wave, etc.)</li> </ul>
<b>Institutional</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did the creation of this film innovate new ways of filmmaking? (This can</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The production, distribution and exhibition factors involved for a film</li> <li>• The digital or analogue production and distribution factors involved for the film</li> <li>• The budget and control factors involved in a film's production (independent vs. studio based)</li> </ul>	<p>include aspects of production, distribution and exhibition ... from new types of special effects and the use of new editing/lighting/sound techniques to new ways of promoting and releasing the film to the public.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was the film shot on analog film or digital video? Were special effects and other film elements created with analog or digital methods (or both)? Does this impact the story and meaning of the film in any way?</li> <li>• How was the film released to the public? Did its release format(s) impact the film's performance and reception by audiences and critics?</li> <li>• Did the filmmakers or film studio have creative control over the film? How did this impact the final version of the film produced and distributed?</li> </ul> <p><i>(FYI there will often be links between institutional and technological contexts for a film.)</i></p>
<p><b>Political</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A film that attempts to persuade, subvert or create a political effect</li> <li>• A film that has caused or incited political events or effects</li> <li>• A film that directly addresses a political issue or concern</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the film seem to have any particular political agenda? Does its story support or reject any political viewpoints, groups or perspectives? Is there any evidence that the film could be seen as a form of political propaganda? Why?</li> <li>• Do the characters show any specific political views within the film, either through their words or actions? Is this explicit or implied?</li> <li>• If the film portrays a political movement or event, does it highlight a majority or minority point of view?</li> <li>• Does the film support a widely accepted version of political events or subvert them?</li> <li>• Are various political groups represented in different cinematic ways in the film?</li> <li>• Does the film comment on any particular laws, policies or political mindsets of the country in which it is set and/or produced? Is this positive or negative?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The communities, identities or issues represented in a film</li> <li>• The social values, conventions and traditions represented in a film</li> <li>• Use of the film by particular communities, identities or groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities can include immigrant, religious or language-related groups. Identities can include gender or sexual identification or ways of life. Issues are social dilemmas that evoke opinions and force people to take sides.</li> <li>• How does the film incorporate one or more of the social aspects described above? What narrative role do specific communities, identities or issues play in the film and your sequence?</li> <li>• Are there conflicts between characters over social values, conventions and traditions in the film?</li> <li>• How are film elements such as mise-en-scene, cinematography, etc. used to cinematically represent these communities, identities or issues?</li> </ul> <p><i>(The following questions can also relate to geographic cultural contexts.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given what you know about the place or time portrayed in the movie, are there groups of people not shown or barely acknowledged in the movie who are nonetheless significant in the geographic location the film is set within? Why do you think they are not portrayed in this movie?</li> <li>• Does the movie use visual cues in lighting, camera angles, editing decisions, costume, makeup, or actors' gestures – to establish that a character or a group of characters is clearly the 'other' – strange, foreign, or menacing type of person who falls outside the 'normal' majority? If so, what are the cues and how do they work?</li> <li>• Is the movie seemingly content to reinforce traditional stereotypes of minority characters? Or does it seem to be working against them and how so?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Technological</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools, products or methods used to create a film</li> <li>• The integration of distribution and exhibition technology of a film</li> <li>• Concerns and factors related to a film's sustainability and/or longevity based on the technology used to create, distribute or execute it</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the tools, products and methods used to create the film? How do they contribute to the visual storytelling? What are the filmmaker's intentions with these choices?</li> <li>• Did the creation of this film innovate new ways of filmmaking?</li> <li>• Did this film represent the end of any particular methods of filmmaking?</li> <li>• How was this film distributed and exhibited to audiences?</li> </ul> <p>Examples of innovative use of technological film methods (you should discuss how these contribute to the storytelling, discuss filmmaker intentions with these choices, how they influence future films and filmmakers, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B&amp;W vs Color (Wizard of Oz)</li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of sound (The Jazz Singer, M)</li><li>• Animation styles (Toy Story)</li><li>• Deep focus (Citizen Kane)</li><li>• Editing (flashbacks, expansion vs. elliptical editing, Hollywood and Soviet montage, etc.)</li><li>• Camera movement (Handheld and Steady cam)</li><li>• Bullet Time (Matrix)</li><li>• 2D vs. 3D (films shot in native 3D vs. films post-converted to 3D, etc.)</li></ul> |
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*\*Some elements adapted from the Cultural Contexts slideshow created by Seth Reuf.*