

Alfred Hitchcock: Through the Lens

Learning the 'Hitchcockian' style by studying his films

Course #	20SAH
Format:	Seminar
Moderator(s):	Pam Daniels
Date and Time:	Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 10 weeks, starting Feb. 25, 2020
Location:	Smith College, Dewey Common
Maximum number of participants:	18
Auditors accepted:	No

Purpose: In this seminar we will explore Hitchcock's use of the camera to heighten mystery and suspense, express character identification, and strengthen the spectator's viewpoint. Some examples of his cinematography include montage, extreme close-ups, mise-en-scene, camera movement, point-of-view shot sequence, color, graphic, special effects and other cinematic techniques.

Description: Sir Alfred Hitchcock, an English film director and producer, was known as the 'Master of Suspense.' He directed over 50 feature films in a career spanning six decades. His start in the silent film era as a technician and editor literally focused his own eye as the protagonist's viewpoint - the beginnings of the voyeur perspective that became his trademark. Hitchcock's first successful film, "The Lodger" (1927), helped to shape the suspense genre. Two of his 1930s thrillers, "The 39 Steps" (1935) and "The Lady Vanishes" (1938) are ranked among the greatest British films of the 20th century. When Hitchcock moved to the United States in 1940 to direct "Rebecca", the art of his directorial, as well as cinematic, mastery began to flourish. His films of the 40s - 60s are his classics, including "Vertigo" (1958) which is regarded as his greatest work. Seminar participants will focus on the last three decades.

Role of participants: Each participant will select/view one Hitchcock film, then read studies and reviews of camera style, direction, editing, actors, lighting, costumes, etc. Presenter will provide a 25 to 40- minute presentation then lead a group discussion. Featured scenes of the movie can be incorporated from YouTube or DVD. Assistance will be available.

Resources: The moderator will provide the selected DVD from her library; if not available from this source, most public and university library systems can be tapped. DVDs can be obtained from online sites as well as local stores. Film reviews and discussions of Hitchcock's art can also be found on the internet. "Hitchcock: The Murderous Gaze" by William Rothman is recommended.

About the Moderator: Pam Daniels has two graduate degrees in Library Science and Public Policy. She is retired from 35 years in NY and CT state governments, seeking frequent refuge in movie theatres. She is still recovering from "Psycho". A member of LIR for 5 years, Pam has offered four seminars including this one.