

**SUNY Film/Film and Literature  
Summer Assignment 2017-2018**

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**Background:**

An Introduction to Reading Film:

In studying films, we will move away from mere description into in-depth analysis of film technique and structure. "With description, we repeat in words what we see in a film. We can describe the content of the film (what we see) or we can describe the film's form (how the film is constructed). [However] we need to supplement description with analysis. Analysis involves examining a film's overall form or structure- the film's design." Filmmakers use the same standard tools, but not in the same way (depending on the time period, available materials, and artistic vision). As an analytical audience, we must pay attention to various technical, stylistic, and narrative options available to a filmmaker and the choices made in the constructing of the film. We must study the film practice, and film aesthetics.

--Excerpted from Warren Buckland's *Teach Yourself: Film Studies* (2008)

**Assignment:**

Watch a film this summer (old, new, foreign, or otherwise) and complete, to the best of your ability, a film review that analyzes the film in terms of plot, setting, issues raised, narrative structure, cinematic aspects, and/or anything else that is striking to you. Acceptable film reviews can be found in news publications, film journals, and/or film texts. An example of a published online film review can be found here: [Spike Jonz's Her and Adam McKay's Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues](#).

<http://nymag.com/movies/reviews/her-anchorman-2-2013-12/index1.html>

**Requirements:**

Your review should be 250-500 words (approximately two typed, double-spaced pages) and incorporate an analysis of the film using specific examples from the film, but not relying on plot summary. Happy viewing!

**Due: First week of classes.**

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