

## FRESHMAN WRITING INTENSIVE SEMINAR

### Discussion Questions and Prompts on Monaco, Chapter 4 Part 1

For the following questions/prompts write down your responses to them and record the names of your group members on the top of the sheet or on the computer file. Submit after the exercise is concluded. Some of the prompts involve watching or scanning through Youtube clips of films.

1. Define the “psychopolitics” and “sociopolitics” of cinema.
2. Explain why Walter Benjamin is viewed as important in attempting to theorize cinema. What was his major insight?
3. What are the three ways in which film is political? What do the terms mean?
4. Discuss the development of the concept of “celebrity” and how film helped to produce it. Who have been the major celebrities in film history?
5. Discuss how racism has figured in the development of film.
6. Discuss how African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Women have figured in the politics of film.
7. Do the thought experiment on p. 304.
8. Discuss the notion of “sexual politics.” Attempt to theorize the sexual politics of Korean cinema if you can.
9. How has censorship operated in cinema? How does it today?
10. Discuss the films mentioned that are overtly and covertly political, like propaganda and war films. Consider the social problems that have impacted the politics of film.
11. Compare the works of the Lumiere Brothers with those of Melies.
12. Scan through a clip from George Melies’ *Voyage to the Moon* and write your reactions to it.
13. Scan through a clip of the Lumiere brothers’ *Leaving the Factory* and write your reactions to it.
14. Discuss the politics of comedy and the major figures, Keaton, Chaplin, Lloyd, and Sennett. Look at a trailer or scan through some clips of films from each and write your reactions to them.
15. What were the contributions and problems with D. W. Griffith?
16. Who were the major figures of expressionism and their contributions?
17. Look at trailers or scan through clips of films by Carl Theodor Dreyer and write your reactions to them.
18. Who were the major figures of the Soviet screen and their contributions?
19. Discuss the contributions of Hitchcock, Welles, Wilder, Ford, etc.
20. What was the importance of Howard Hawkes’ *The Big Sleep*
21. Explain the tension between auteur and genre, specifically with regard to Orson Welles’ *Citizen Kane*.