

FREN 310

PRÉSENTATIONS 1

- You will do this presentation individually.
- Presentations should last around 10mins. Presentations between 8 and 10mins. will be accepted. Presentations below 8mins. will see students have their grades lowered by 20% for each minutes (a 7min.-presentation will be worth 80%, a 6min.-presentation 60%, etc.)
- Your presentation should offer new information on the topic that has been assigned to you and that is connected with what has been discussed in class. This implies that you need to do some background research. It is not enough to reuse the information I have given you in class. You can use the website created for the class to get you started, but you cannot limit yourself to the information on it. A significant part of your grade will be about the quality of your research. Failure to do so will considerably lower your grade.

Preparation

- Include visual and/or audio aids (a PowerPoint presentation, pictures, a handout, a video or audio clip, etc.) You must include video clips from the film, director or aesthetic trend you will be discussing.
- Use your own words, at a level appropriate for the class. This means that you may need to present a few new vocabulary items. Summarize the ideas of your sources, but do not simply copy them! Even when summarizing, you must always indicate in which source you found the ideas/information (Note the author and date). If you use any direct quotations, make sure to enclose them in quotation marks (indicating author, date and page number) in writing and say “Je cite,…” when speaking.

Presentation

- When presenting, you may use notes, but you must know your topic well enough to engage your audience and make eye contact. (If you read your presentation from notes or PowerPoint, you will not receive a good grade.)
- Speak fairly slowly and at a good volume.
- Speak only French during your presentation. If you forget a word/expression, try to say it another way.
- Practice your presentation in advance, and time it, to be sure that your presentation is neither too long nor too short. Practicing will also help you to stay in French and not resort to English.
- After your presentation, you must engage the class in follow-up discussion or an activity pertaining to your topic.

<p>1. Le cinéma des premiers temps</p>	<p>For this presentation, I am asking you to do some research on the origins of film in France:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What previous inventions lead to the birth of the “cinématographe”? • Do some background/biographical research on les frères Lumière and Georges Méliès: What other films than the ones mentioned in class did they direct? Did their style evolve? • Give some general historical information on the evolution of silent films.
<p>2. L’avant-garde</p>	<p>For this presentation, I am asking you to do some research on the history and evolution of the “avant-garde”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When and why did it emerge? • What were its most important stylistic and narrative concerns? • Who were the most prominent figures connected to this movement? • Was it a popular trend? Why (not)? • What were some of the most significant films directed during that time?
<p>3. Le réalisme poétique</p>	<p>For this presentation, I am asking you to do some research on the history and evolution of the “réalisme poétique”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did it emerge? • What were its more significant stylistic and narrative aspects? • Who were the most prominent directors? Actors? Actresses? • What were the most significant films directed during that time?
<p>4. Jean Renoir</p>	<p>We briefly discussed Jean Renoir when we studied <i>La Règle du jeu</i>. For this presentation, I am asking you to do some research on Renoir, focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General biographical elements (where was he born? where did he direct films? etc.) • His filmography. • His most important films and their impact on cinema and filmmaking (you can include <i>La Règle du jeu</i> but cannot limit yourself to this film.)

<p>5. Agnès Varda</p>	<p>We briefly mentioned her in class, but her influence as a female filmmaker in French cinema is undeniable. For this presentation, I am asking you to do some research focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General biographical elements. • Her filmography and the various film genres she dealt with. • Has she been working with other art forms? Which ones? • Why is she the most prominent female director in French cinema?
<p>6. Les femmes réalisatrices</p>	<p>Except for Agnès Varda, we said that, from the 70's onwards, French cinema saw an increase of female directors. For this presentation, I am asking you to do some research focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presence and evolution of female directors in French cinema from the 1970's to today. • Select 2 names from the list below and give some biographical information as well as their filmography and what is considered to be their most important works. <p>Name of female directors: Agnès Jaoui; Nicole Garcia; Diane Kurys; Claire Denis</p>
<p>7. Le cinéma français des années 1980/1990</p>	<p>We briefly mentioned the main thematic aspects from this period of time in French cinema, but I am asking you to do more in-depth research regarding these two decades. I am asking you to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The most prominent stylistic and thematic aspects of the 80's and 90's. • The most significant directors. • The most significant films from this period.
<p>8. La comédie française</p>	<p>We've seen that comedy was the most popular genre in French cinema. With this presentation, I'd like the presenter to give an overview of the evolution of comedy throughout the history of French cinema. To do so, I am asking you to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landmarks regarding the history/evolution of comedy. • Some of the most popular directors and actors/actresses. • Some of the most popular films. • Give some information on French comedy from the early 2000's to today.

<p>9. François Truffaut</p>	<p>We gave some biographical information regarding François Truffaut when we discussed <i>Les 400 coups</i>, but his work encompasses a great number of films, and he has also been very influential in the history of French cinema. For this presentation, I am asking you to do some research focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General biographical elements. • François Truffaut and the concept of “auteur” cinema. • His most prominent films. • The evolution of his cinema (were all his films indebted to New Wave?) • His main thematic concerns.
<p>10. Analyse thématique du film <i>Je vais bien, ne t'en fais pas</i></p>	<p>We discussed some of the most significant themes of the film in class, namely (a) death (b) relationships/friendship/family ties (c) unsaid things (d) the act of lying.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose 3 themes from the list and show how the film deals with them, by analyzing specific scenes and paying particular attention to specific elements of <i>mise-en-scène</i> (framing, composition, etc.) • Show how an analysis of <i>mise-en-scène</i> can help us get a better, more nuanced understanding of these themes.
<p>11. Analyse thématique du film <i>Entre les murs</i></p>	<p>We discussed some of the most significant themes of the film in class, namely (a) the relationships between students and teachers (b) the representation of the French school system (c) the blend of realism and fiction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss these 3 themes by analyzing specific scenes and paying particular attention to specific elements of <i>mise-en-scène</i>. • Show how an analysis of <i>mise-en-scène</i> can help us get a better, more nuanced understanding of these themes.
<p>12. Analyse comparée des films <i>Entre les murs</i> et <i>L'Esquive</i></p>	<p>Both films focus on the same socio-economic groups and place teaching and education at the heart of their narrative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the similarities and the differences between these two films, from the point of view of (a) acting style (b) thematic concerns (c) <i>mise-en-scène</i>. • Do they give the same image of the French “banlieues” and of the question of the integration emigrants in society? • Does one seem more realistic than the other? Why? (Think of specific scenes from each film to illustrate your point of view.)

13. *Je vais bien...*; *Entre les murs* et *L'Esquive*: La Représentation de la jeunesse dans le cinéma français

Even though they are not completely similar in style and tone, all three films are centered on the depiction of youth in contemporary French society.

- How is this topic dealt with in each of the three films? Do they use a similar stylistic/approach?
- Is French youth perceived in a positive or rather negative light? Why do you think that is?
- What are the main socio-economic aspects connected to the depiction of youth in these films?
- Use specific scenes from each film to illustrate your point of view.