

MOVIE SET ANALYSIS PROJECT

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Keywords	Set Design, Analysis
Category	History and Theory
Type	Class Assignment
Level	Junior
Duration	6-8 Weeks
Abstract	Historically based movies are assigned to two-member teams for analysis of the accuracy of the set designs. Library research on architectural and interior styles provide a knowledge base from which to work. Specific questions concerning the architecture, surface treatments, furnishings, textiles, and accessories are answered for each movie.
Objectives	<p>To encourage students to apply their knowledge of historical architectural and interior styles in a critical analysis, and</p> <p>To make students more aware of the accuracy (or inaccuracy) of details they see on movie screens, TV, or actual spaces.</p>
Criteria	<p>Project requirements are divided into two sections, submitted in a written report (typed and bound).</p> <p><i>Part 1-Library Research Paper.</i> (Must include information outlined below, end notes, and a bibliography)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exterior architectural characteristics• Interior architectural characteristics: 1) doors; 2) windows; 3) fireplaces; 4) room sizes and shapes; and 5) other• Surface treatments: 1) floors; 2) walls; 3) ceilings; 4) windows; and 5) other• Furniture: 1) general characteristics; 2) materials and finishes; 3) types of pieces; 4) specific pieces; and 5) other• Textiles• Colors• Accessories <p><i>Part 2-Set Analysis.</i> (Must include detailed answers to the following questions)</p>

- State the specific time period and location (country, region, state, city-as appropriate) for the movie. List the main actors and the year the movie was made.
- Based on your library research, analyze the set designs used in the movie by answering the following questions: 1) is the exterior architecture shown accurate for this time? Why or why not? Cite examples and give counter numbers; 2) are interior architectural features and surface treatments accurate? Why or why not? Cite examples and give counter numbers; 3) are interior furnishings accurate?
- Include furniture, accessories, window treatments, rugs, etc. Why or why not? Cite examples and counter numbers; and 4) are colors and textiles (types, patterns) accurate? Why or why not. Cite examples and counter numbers.
- Choose a specific segment (10 minutes) of the movie that best typifies the set design for interior spaces and identify surface treatments, architectural features and furnishings shown during this segment. Use appropriate, specific terms in identifying treatments or pieces. Are these items accurate for this time and location? Be sure to indicate beginning and ending counter numbers for this segment and briefly describe what is happening in the movie so that the instructor can locate the exact segment.
- Briefly summarize the plot of the movie.
- Was this project a learning experience for you? Why or why not?
- Did working in teams help or hinder your completion of this project? Why or why not?

Process Steps for Completing Movie Set Analysis Project.

- Submit three movie choices from the list provided. The instructor will approve a movie for each team. No two teams will be allowed to review the same movie.
- Preview the movie to determine the plot, location, and time period.
- Using library resources, class notes, textbooks, and periodicals, write a paper describing the appropriate architecture and interiors for the location and time period of your movie. An outline of information to include has been provided for you.
- Using the information included in your paper, view the movie again. Carefully observe the accuracy of the architectural and interior styles shown in the sets. Following directions, complete the analysis by answering all questions on the sheet given to you.
- Submit your paper and analysis, appropriately bound and titled.

Presentation Students turn in a two-part, bound paper.

Evaluation This project is assigned the same number of points as a written exam. The research section is worth 50% and the analysis is worth 50%. Each team member receives the same grade. The instructor views parts of each movie as cited in the student papers.

Credits The inspiration for this project came while watching the movie Amadeus with a colleague who teaches history of costume. We both found ourselves

commenting more on the sets and clothing than on the movie itself. Realizing that our students are very visually oriented and attuned to the video age, we developed this project as an extension of the typical "term paper" so often required in history related courses. The project has been very successful in both interiors and costume classes over the last four or five years. The most time consuming parts for the instructor are updating the selection list based on local availability and grading the final results. Accumulating a personal video library of the films commonly used helps cut the time and expense. Students often comment that after completing this project, they can no longer just watch movie for the plot, but found themselves carefully watching the sets as well.

Documentation Suggested List of Movies To Be Reviewed Include:

Amadeus	The Lion in Winter
Ben Hur	The Man in the Iron Mask
Black Arrow	Moses
Camelot	The Robe
Cleopatra	Romeo and Juliet
The Three Musketeers	The Scarlet Pimpernel
Dangerous Liaisons	Sword of Lancelot
King of Kings	Robin Hood
King David	Prince Valiant
Hamlet	Lady Jane
Ivanhoe	Henry V
Joan of Arc	MacBeth
Julius Caesar	The Wicked Lady