

# **SIMS 246 MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION ASSIGNMENT 1: THEORY APPLICATION (DUE SEPTEMBER 29, 2003)**

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## **1. ASSIGNMENT OVERVIEW AND GOALS**

This Assignment is designed to provide you with the opportunity to apply some of the theoretical knowledge you have been developing over the last few weeks to the analysis and synthesis of motion picture sequences. In this Assignment you will:

- Analyze a short motion picture sequence
- Re-edit the sequence
- Analyze your re-edited sequence

In addition to applying your theoretical knowledge, you will also begin to gain some proficiency with the Adobe Premiere video editing program that you will use in later assignments.

## **2. SIMS CIS ACCOUNT SIGN UP**

You must have a SIMS account and have received a CIS orientation in order to do this assignment. We requested in the first two sessions of the course that each of you sign up for a SIMS account and receive an orientation from the SIMS CIS Staff. If for some reason you have not done this, please contact Jeremy Kashnow immediately.

## **3. VIEW AND CHOOSE FILM SEQUENCE**

You have three short film sequences to choose from for your analysis, re-edit, and re-analysis:

- ? Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid (Train Station Sequence 1:14)

- ? Battleship Potemkin (Odessa Steps Sequence 0:31)
- ? Metropolis (Moloch Sequence 1:28)

All film sequences are in the AVI format and can be viewed with Windows Media Player, Real Player, or QuickTime. All film sequences are video only—you don't need headphones to watch the film.

For your convenience, we have copied the film sequences to the C drive of the following PCs in the second floor computer lab: Cobalt, Topaz, Sapphire, Carnelian, and Onyx.

Please locate the folder C:/is246/ on the hard drive of these computers and double-click the film sequence file you wish to view.

The film sequences and other assignment-related files can also be found under P:/is246/assignment1/. If you are not using one of the above mentioned computers, copy the film sequence to your local hard drive and delete it after viewing.

Please view all three sequences and choose one to use for this Assignment.

**Note:** Please do not leave any media files on the desktop or the local hard drive when logging off a lab machine.

## 4. PART I: THEORY APPLICATION

For this Assignment please create the following folders in your Home directory (H:/):

is246  
is246/assignment1

Please save all your files for this assignment in your is246/assignment1 folder in your home directory (H:/)

All of your answers for Part I should be collected in a file named [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.doc or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.txt or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.htm and saved in your is246/assignment1 folder.

In this part of the assignment you will be doing a “close viewing” of your chosen film sequence and analyzing its form and structure. In sections 4.1 – 4.6 we provide some guidelines to help you in your analysis.

### 4.1. Sequence Segmentation

Similar to the plot segmentation of the “Wizard of Oz” movie on p. 64 of the Bordwell's Film Art, provide a brief sequence segmentation (shot by shot) of your chosen film sequence. Every shot should be documented with a number (for later reference) and a brief description of the shot content (not longer than a sentence or two including who,

what, when, and where information) and a brief description of each shot's camera angle, level, height, distance, and movement (if any). Feel free to use a spreadsheet or outline to structure your segmentation.

#### **4.2. Camera Angle, Level, and Height Analysis**

Closely observe 2 instances of different camera angles, levels, or heights and briefly describe their possible effects in the shot(s) and sequence. Please use stills from the sequence to illustrate your discussion.

#### **4.3. Camera Distance Analysis**

Closely observe 2 instances of different camera distances (e.g., medium shot, close-up, etc.) and briefly describe their possible functions for these particular shots and the sequence. Please use stills from the sequence to illustrate your discussion.

#### **4.4. Camera Movement Analysis**

Closely observe 2 instances of different camera movements (e.g., pan, dolly, etc.) and briefly describe their possible functions for these particular shots and the sequence. Please use stills and/or clips from the sequence to illustrate your discussion.

#### **4.5. Continuity Editing Analysis**

Closely observe 2 instances of different examples of continuity editing (e.g., eyeline match, match on action etc.) and briefly describe their possible functions for these particular shots and the sequence. Please use stills and/or clips from the sequence to illustrate your discussion.

#### **4.6. Spatio-Temporal Transitions Analysis**

Closely observe 2 instances of different spatio-temporal transitions (e.g., overlapping action, temporal ellipsis, parallel action, etc.) and briefly describe their possible functions for these particular shots and the sequence. Please use stills and/or clips from the sequence to illustrate your discussion. Please relate your analysis to one or more of the theoretical frameworks for describing spatio-temporal transitions in Bordwell, Metz, Eco, Barthes, or Burch.

### **5. PART II: RE-EDIT**

For this part, you are required to use one of the above-mentioned machines (Cobalt, Topaz, Sapphire, Carnelian, or Onyx) because you will be using the digital video editing program Adobe Premiere 6.5, which is only installed on these PCs.

In this second part, you will re-edit your chosen film sequence. The goal of this re-edit is to see how the meaning of shots and a sequence can be changed by re-arranging the shots.

### 5.1. Learn Adobe Premiere

An additional goal of this assignment is for you to become familiar with Adobe Premiere.

In order for you to acquire the necessary knowledge to re-edit your film sequence, we will provide you with 2 lessons from the training books for Adobe Premiere (“Adobe Premiere 6.5 Classroom in a Book”): lesson 3 on basic editing and lesson 4 on transitions. It will take you about 1.5 hours to complete these lessons. You can additionally take the “Tour of Adobe Premiere” which is a broader but also introductory session.

Copies of the book “Adobe Premiere 6.5 Classroom in a Book” will be available for you at the workstations the upstairs lab. The necessary training files can be found under C:/is246/Pr65\_CIB/ or under P:/is246/assignment1/Pr65\_CIB/. **Please do not remove these books from the lab.**

Please save your own training files (the files that you create) in your home directory.

The program Adobe Premiere 6.5 can be found in the Start Menu under Start > Programs > Graphics & Publishing > Adobe Premiere 6.5.

When starting Premiere, you might encounter one or several of the following dialog boxes:

- ? Choose Single Track Editing when you have to make a choice between A/B Editing and Single Track Editing
- ? Choose “Never ask again” when you face the Adobe Registration Choice Dialog
- ? Choose the default (DV – NTSC Real-time Preview Standard 48 kHz) in the Load Project Setting Dialog box and click OK

### 5.2. Locate Your Film Project File

Once you are finished learning the basics, you can start re-editing your own film sequence.

For your convenience, we prepared Adobe Premiere Project files that contain the original sequences already broken out into separate shots for you to re-edit. You can find these files under C:/is246/projectfiles/ or under P:/is246/assignment1/projectfiles/

Before you start working, copy the project file that contains your sequence to your home directory and rename it to [youraccountname]\_ [sequencename].ppj

**Always use this file in your home directory to re-edit!**

When you are opening your Premiere project file (e.g., vivienp\_deadmen.ppj) from your student folder (in Premiere: File > Open), Adobe Premiere will ask you for the source file (e.g. deadmen.avi). Browse to the folder C:/is246/ and select the film sequence by clicking on it. Now, you are ready to go!

### 5.3. Re-Edit Your Sequence

In re-editing the sequence you will be using the original materials of the sequence and re-editing them to create a new sequence. If you feel that you don't need all of the shots provided, leave those out that are unnecessary. Or you may wish to repeat shots to affect temporal order. You may also choose to alter the screen duration and framing of shots. You may also break shots into smaller units as well. The only criterion is that you do not add any new shots to the sequence in your re-edit. You need to motivate your re-editing choices to serve the new sequence you will create

When you are done, save your project file in your home directory.

### 5.4. Export Your Video To MPEG

Once you are finished re-editing your movie and are happy with your final cut, export the timeline to an MPEG encoded file.

Click on the Timeline window to activate it.

Now go to File > Export Timeline > Adobe MPEG Encoder

In the opened window, select

- ? VCD under MPEG Stream
- ? NTSC under Video Standard
- ? [youraccountname]\_[sequencename].mpg under Filename
- ? H:/ under Location
- ? Work area under Export range

Finally, click the Export button.

## 6. PART III: ANALYSIS OF RE-EDIT

In this part of the assignment you will be doing a "close viewing" of your re-edited sequence and analyzing its form and structure. Please repeat the segmentation and analysis you did for your chosen sequence on your re-edited sequence. Your segmentation of your re-edited sequence may be very similar in parts you did not change and your analysis may be very different in the parts you re-edited. Briefly discuss what has changed between the two sequences and how the changes work (or

don't). In addition please briefly comment on what metadata seemed to remain constant across the two sequences, what changed and why, and what implications this may have for the design of media metadata.

Please save part III in a text file named [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.doc or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.txt or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.htm in your home directory.

## 7. HANDING IN THE ASSIGNMENT

You should hand in your assignment by 3:30 pm on September 24.

The following 4 files should be copied to the drop-off folder under:

**P:/is246/assignment1/drop\_off/**

- ? [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.doc or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.txt or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.htm
- ? [youraccountname]\_[sequencename].ppj
- ? [youraccountname]\_[sequencename].mpg
- ? [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.doc or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.txt or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.htm

Please be sure to hand in the correct files. This is a drop-off box only—once you have copied your files over, you will not be able to pick them up again!

Bring printouts of [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.doc or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.txt or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part1.htm and [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.doc or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.txt or [youraccountname]\_a1\_part3.htm to class on September 24th and hand them in.