

FRST 101: Freshman Studies II Winter 2012
Instructor: Stoneking
Handout #3: PONTECORVO, BATTLE OF ALGIERS

Friday 20 January 2012

Come to class prepared to:

- Discuss Professor Smith's lecture. What were the main points?
- Identify a number of **major themes** raised by the film. For two of the themes you identify, be prepared to refer to specific sequences in the film where those themes are addressed. Does Pontecorvo manipulate the audience to take a particular view on that theme? How does he do so?
- Discuss whether this film has an agenda or a goal. If so, how does it attempt to achieve it?

Monday 23 January 2012

Each student group should prepare a 10-15 minute analysis of your *primary* assigned film sequence including a brief comparison to the *secondary* sequence. Each member of the group should contribute to the presentation. Presentations should:

- Explains what is being represented in the primary sequence. What's going on here?
 - Situate the primary sequence within the narrative. What happens immediately before and after the sequence?
 - Discuss the overall importance of the primary sequence (the "so what?" of the clip?).
 - Identifies filmic techniques that influence the spectator's interpretation of what is represented. Comment on the
 - *mise-en-scène* (that which is arranged in front of the camera),
 - cinematography (photography, camera angle, framing, distance, movement),
 - editing (transitions between shots, relations between shots – cuts),
 - sound, music, and special effects,
 - viewer's/camera's position,
 - other aspects?
 - Compare the primary sequence to the secondary sequence. In what ways does Pontecorvo suggest similarities between these two sequences and in what ways does he draw distinctions?
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- Group 1: Chioma, David, Luke, Spencer
 - Primary sequence*: Aftermath of Casbah bombing (0:37:35 – 0:39:50)
 - Secondary sequence*: Aftermath of FLN French quarter bombings (0:53:00 – 0:54:10)

- Group 2: Augie, Mark, Ari
 - Primary sequence:* FLN women prepare for European quarter bombings (0:41:30-0:48:30)
 - Secondary sequence:* preparations of the police chief and associates to bomb the Casbah (0:34:21-0:37:40)
- Group 3: Allison, Serena, Catherine
 - Primary sequence:* Immediate prelude to FLN European quarter bombings (0:48:30-0:53:00)
 - Secondary sequence:* prelude to the killing of Ali la Pointe (1:48:10-1:52:32)
- Group 4: Brandon, Elise, Ian
 - Primary sequence:* Ali la Pointe & Ben M'Hidi political discussion (1:05:50-1:08:10)
 - Secondary sequence:* Colonel Mathieu addresses his officers (0:55:34-1:00:42)