



Film History: An Introduction

Kristin Thompson, David Bordwell

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Written by two of the leading scholars in film studies, *Film History: An Introduction* is a comprehensive, global survey of the medium that covers the development of every genre in film, from drama and comedy to documentary and experimental. As with the authors' bestselling *Film Art: An Introduction* (now in its eighth edition), concepts and events are illustrated with frame enlargements taken from the original sources, giving students more realistic points of reference than competing books that rely on publicity stills.

The third edition of *Film History* is thoroughly updated and includes the first comprehensive overviews of the impact of globalization and digital technology on the cinema. Any serious film scholar--professor, undergraduate, or graduate student--will want to read and keep *Film History*.

Visit the author's blog at <http://www.davidbordwell.net/blog/>

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Film History: An Introduction Details

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Simone says

So, I get to count this towards my count of books read this year, because I damn well did read every single painful (assigned) word of this thing. If anyone cares I will tell you why I hated it. But B&T care about nothing but film and aesthetics, and I care about ideological meaning, so I think we will agree to disagree. In one stunning moment they discuss how the end of inflation in Germany in the 1930s (inflation so bad no one could buy bread with thousands of dollars) was a blow to the film industry there. Sure, no one could buy bread and people were starving to death, but B&T remain concerned only with the national cinema. Ok.

Angela says

I had to get this book for a film history class and loved it so much that I couldn't bear to part with it at the end of the semester. I've been done with that class for over a year and I still look up things in this book all the time.

Andreas Climent says

The book is very informative and covers a lot but is a bit repetitive. I would have preferred a more chronological structure instead of jumps back and forth in time to focus on one "group" of filmmakers at a time.

I recommend the book to anyone interested in international film history, but be prepared to read it for quite some time. It took me a month of reading 1-3 hours a day to get through the 722 pages.

Annie Fagerstrand says

Highly pedagogical. A good book to start with if you want to learn about film history.

Vince says

Fantastic overview of film history, focussing on particular areas. Definitely worth getting if you're a student, or even vaguely interested in film beyond catching the latest blockbuster (but I can almost guarantee you'll find yourself skipping over paragraphs to entire chapters).

Mahdi Lotfabadi says

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Anne-Marie says

In 2018, I can still remember how I thought, and still think, this was the worst book I ever read; it was so terrible, in every possible way: poor writing, pedantic tone, inane analyses. I had to get this for a film class--during my first semester-- and I couldn't sell it back to the textbook store fast enough, which is certainly not my normal. My mind boggles to imagine anyone who could know so little about film or history and could find this at all useful. The only other book I sold back was also a Bordwell/Thompson one. I hated this book so much, that other by the pair was immediately sold back at the end of a semester. I walked out of class and into the bookstore to sell it. (All my other film books were kept, even ones I didn't get a lot out of on first reading, because I could get smarter and they could get better once I do.)

Maddy says

I ordered this book online used and in the pages was a receipt for wine.

Alborz Taheri says

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Alyce Hunt says

An in-depth look at the history of film, covering the developments industry all over the globe and featuring lots of figures to demonstrate the new and developing techniques of each era. Not a book you can read in its entirety: lots of skimming was needed, but even that still gives you a good grasp of the timelines of film.

Nima Kohandani says

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Lotte says

Finally finished this monster! A little under - uhm - one year.

It's comprehensive and gives a good overview of film history, presented against the backdrop of socio-political events, which is a nice occasion to refresh your memory.

Lay-out could have been better and I'm still not as interested in the history and structure of the American majors (although the authors make an admirable effort to treat as many countries as they can think of. I think they missed Iceland and Groenland).

And what? No mention of The Room?

zury says

Gives a comprehensive overview of the political, technological and socio-economic factors influencing the founding and development of the film industry and industries in different countries. Explains how Hollywood has managed to inoculate the entire planet with its disease. Would be enjoyable reading if I didn't have to spit up names, dates and obscure terminology on an exam that resembles the masochistic brainchild of Alex Trebek and whoever invented Trivial Pursuit, except it's all in Czech. If anyone wants to buy this for me and mail it to my address in Prague, I will host you in my sauna+jacuzzi-equipped flat unless you are: A. for Annoying or B. Trying to get into my pants.

Isis says

An absolutely fascinating textbook. If you're interested in studying film history, this is a must read.

Wolfhound says

