

21L.435/CMS.840

At the Limit: Violence in Contemporary Representation

Professor Eugenie Brinkema

Terms & Concepts

Today, we watched clips from:

Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 *Psycho*

Normalcy of the monster; realism

Arthur Penn's 1967 *Bonnie and Clyde*

Aestheticized Violence / Balletic style

Pasolini's 1975 *Salò*

Sanctioned v. unsanctioned violence; the Law

Wes Craven's 1997 *Scream 2* Reflexivity and irony; postmodernity

Representation and (vs.) the Real

Ultraviolence (1967-on) in terms of history/code changes, aesthetics, spectator, 1966, the Production Code was revised

1968, "Code and Rating Administration" was created, along with the G-M-R - X classification
1930-1960: Hollywood Code; pre-Hayes, no glamorizing of violences; hidden gore, no stylization of violence

1960-on / post-Code / ultraviolence (Peckinpah, Penn) rise of youth culture; Vietnam; assassinations (instant coverage on TV) squibs, show of violence and spraying blood aesthetics: makeup artists (opened body), latex/prosthetic limbs graphic mutilation and slow-motion representations of body in states of extremity and *pain*

Violence= exercise of force so as to inflict injury on, or cause damage to, persons or property (Oxford English Dictionary) [derived from Jean-Luc Nancy: Violence as a FORCE EXTERNAL TO A SYSTEM THAT DENATURES IT]

violentia (Latin), "vehemence, impetuosity," violentus "vehement, forcible," *violation*: early 15c., from L. violationem (nom. violatio) "an injury, irreverence," from *violatus*, pp. of *violare* "to violate, treat with violence, outrage, dishonor"

- Questions to Consider: Does violence require a victim? Is violence the same thing as force or intensity or great energy? Does violence have to result in physical harm, or can it be emotional, moral, affective? Is violence always unjust or impermissible? (Is the notion of "justified violence" an oxymoron?) Is violence singular or can it be collective? Does there have to be an individual person behind violence or can an abstraction (a state, a peoples) be violent? Is violence only destructive or can it also be creative (can it produce the new or only obliterate)?

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