

Watching a Film in the Corrigan Mode

English 120 ♦ Literary Analysis

“As far as possible, prepare yourself for a movie; even before it starts, ask questions about it and about your own potential interest in it.”

Corrigan’s chapters offer many tools for looking at films, and you may want to pursue some of them in more detail than this handout describes. Great! This is meant as a general starting point for watching and taking notes on films. Here are some possible areas of focus you can choose from to prepare for viewing:

- ♦ Technical elements: sound and music, lighting, camera positioning, architecture, props, movement
- ♦ General approaches: historical, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, class and economics, nationality, violence and conflict, psychology, technology, implied viewership

Write down two or three interests that you will use to guide your viewing.

“Note which elements of the movie strike you as unfamiliar or perplexing.”

“Note which elements are repeated to emphasize a point or a perception.”

For this category especially, refer back to the interests you noted above, and try to detect how the film is repeating elements related to those interests.