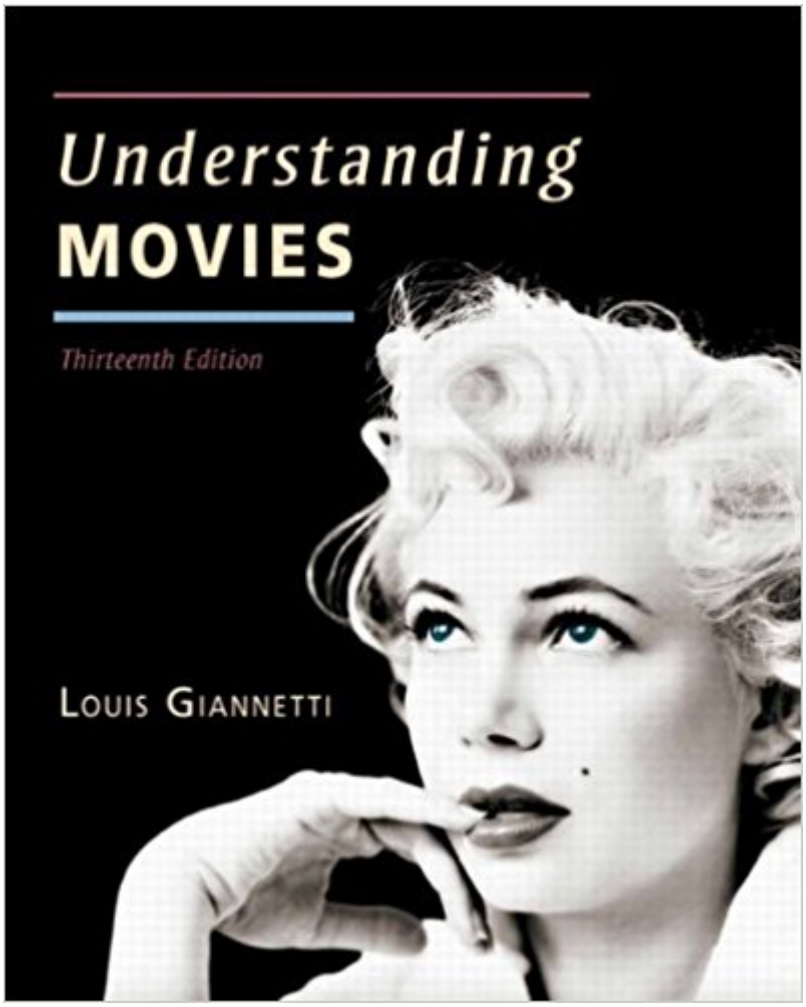
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Understanding Movies (13th Edition)



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Synopsis

A readable, accessible introduction to film Ã Â Understanding Movies provides valuable insight into how movies communicate and convey meaning to their audiences through a unique network of language systems and techniques. In a readable, accessible, and sometimes humorous manner, Understanding Movies engages students in the fascinating language of film and helps further their appreciation and understanding of why and how movie watchers respond as they do to different films. Ã Â Organized around elements of film, the thirteenth edition of this market leading text provides students with a new way of looking at films that are familiar to them through contemporary coverage and a visually engaging presentation. Ã Â Learning Goals Upon completing this book, readers will be able to: Understand film as an industry Discuss the impact of technology on the film industry

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Louis Giannetti is a Professor Emeritus of English and Film at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He has taught courses in film, literature, writing, drama, and humanities. He has published many articles, both popular and scholarly, on political subjects, literature, and drama. In addition to being a professional film critic for several years, he has written about movies for such scholarly journals as Literature/Film Quarterly, The Western Humanities Review, and Film Criticism. Professor Giannetti is also the author of a book on cinema theory, Godard and Others: Essays on Film Form, published in both Britain and the Unites States. GiannettiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s other books include Masters of the American Cinema (Prentice Hall, 1981), a survey of American fiction films from the

perspective of eighteen key figures. Flashback: A Brief History of Film, Sixth Edition (Allyn & Bacon, 2010), written with Scott Eyman, is a history organized by decade outlining the major events, trends, and important filmmakers and their work, with emphasis on the American cinema. Both books are copiously illustrated. Understanding Movies has been a bestselling text in all its previous editions, widely used in the United States and in such countries as Australia, Britain, Singapore, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and Japan.

I used this book for a Film Appreciation class I was taking. I thought the material was straight forward and enjoyable reading. I have a general interest in film (which is why I took the class) and the terminology and movie back story have been interesting. The publisher has a decent amount of online study material and practice quizzes for each chapter that made the online Blackboard quizzes/tests fairly easy if you read the book. The only reason I didn't give it five stars because the author (editor?) regularly split sentences between two pages and sometimes several graphics broke things up even more to the point that I had to go back and re-read the beginning to remember what was being said. The end of chapters also gave the readers a slew of questions they should ask themselves that were fairly pointless as they were written. I can understand a bulleted list but 10-20 questions in paragraph format does nothing for me.

I rented this book for my Introduction to Film class. Our teacher had us start on Chapter 10 and is having us work backwards, so I'm not sure if that is affecting my perception of this book... but I find this book rather hard to follow. It is written more for those who already have a basic knowledge of film and critically-acclaimed directors and their work (but not the widely known directors like Hitchcock and Scorsese). Also, there are "vocabulary" words that appear in bold, but no definition for them (unless you hunt them down in the back of the book). Also, I feel like the author skips around a lot in his paragraphs, touching on many different films and themes rather than focusing deeply on one concept. I have read 4 chapters already and still don't feel clear on a lot of items (formalism, classicism). I ended up Googling those terms and learning more.Again, maybe it is because my instructor had me start from the end of the book and work backwards, but I would think that after teaching this class several times, she would not instruct us to read the book in this manner if it weren't effective.Therefore, I think it may just be the book's content/delivery.

This wasn't a terrible textbook, in fact it was quite informative and the pictures did a good job of illustrating concepts of film. The issue I had was that the information was often unorganized and

lacked any logical flow. If this book was not required for my class, I probably would have never purchased it as a quick look through any chapter demonstrates my point. Even my instructor disliked this book and was in the process of persuading her department to switch to a better one she had found. I decided to keep the book because it is interesting and I already had it, but if you are in the market for a book on this subject, I recommend something else.

They use this book at my community college but it’s nice to see that other students use this book in film school. They required the 13th but I ended up getting the 12th because it was 100$ cheaper used and the reviews said it’s just a few paragraph difference. Was happy with the book and shipping. As there is a general down play on community colleges it’s nice to see this is a book other film students used.

This textbook was required reading for my college course, "Understanding Movies". It’s an excellent, comprehensive survey of the many elements that combine to make up a movie and how to understand them all. It helped me develop a critical eye for story, movement, style, acting, sound, color, lighting, and composition. A wonderful source book for anyone who seriously wants to understand how cinema works as a communicative art form. Well written, sophisticated, challenging and thought-provoking, with great examples from a broad spectrum of movies. One of my all-time favorite textbooks.

I purchased this as new and it was definitely used with markingsAlso I was under the impression I was getting a hard back book and it soft. Normally I wouldn’t complain but for the price and something I was expecting to put on my shelf when the semester is over, I was disappointed

This is an awesome book -- and that’s saying something seeing as it’s a text book. The pages are colorful and covered in great and interesting examples of movies that vary between all genres. I have learned so much reading this book and it hasn’t been a dull experience. Everything you read is immediately applied and you will begin to notice that you analyze the movies you are watching according to what Giannetti has taught you.Two enthusiastic thumbs up!

I used an earlier version of this book when I took film class in college, and I am happy to see that it has kept its high scholastic standards. This is the perfect introduction to everything that is involved with making a film from writing, acting, and cinematography. It acquaints you with all the important

industry terms and gives a voluminous amount of pictures to illustrate whatever concept is being discussed. The book itself is quite pricey, hence my less than perfect review of it. Because it is considered a "textbook," they publishers feel they can charge way too much for the book. So if price is an issue, get an earlier edition. There is very little change from one edition to the next, like most textbooks, but there is a significant amount of difference between several years, so don't go back too far. Otherwise, this is a top rate book.

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