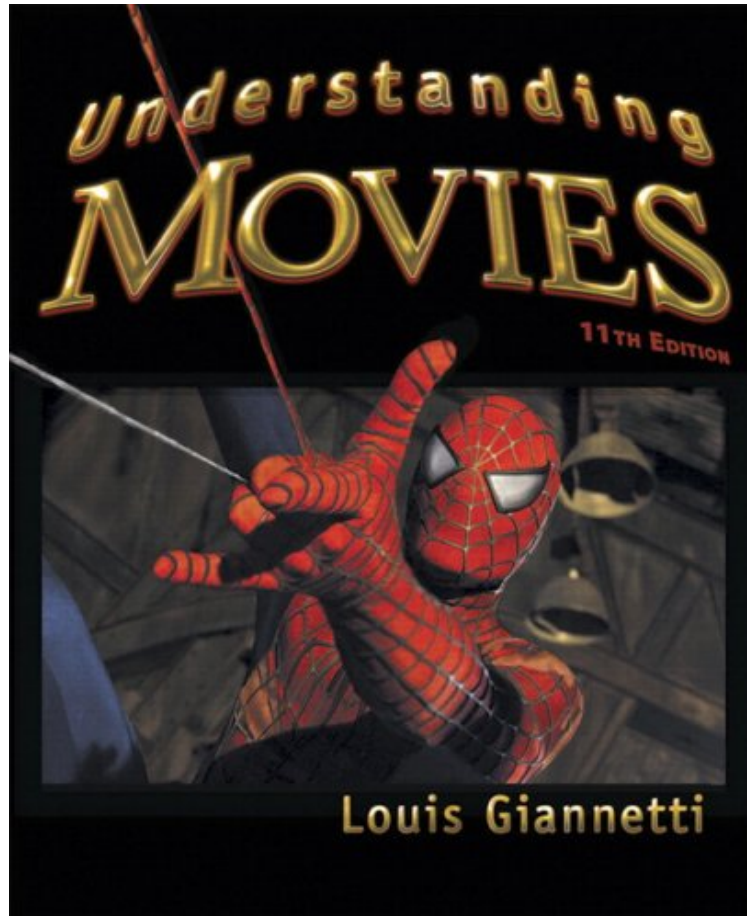


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## Understanding Movies, 11th Edition

*Louis Giannetti*

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**Louis Giannetti : Understanding Movies, 11th Edition** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Movies, 11th Edition:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed reading itBy Michael HalversonI 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.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I really wanted to like this book, but...By CaitlinI 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.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.  
Probably better books than this  
By Jared Burns  
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.

Helps readers understand how the many languages of film work together to create meaning. Louis Giannetti organizes *Understanding Movies* around the key elements of filmmaking, including cinematography, Mise en Scène, movement, editing, sound, acting, drama, casting, story, screenwriting, ideology, and theory. He synthesizes every element through a complete case study: *Citizen Kane*. This book's ideas are illuminated with hundreds of high-quality still photos, more than 70 in full color, taken from movies such as *The Matrix*, *Almost Famous*, *Jackass the Movie*, *Chicago*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Mystic River*, and *Traffic*. New in this edition: a full section on contemporary special effects and computer generated imagery (CGI); up-to-the-minute information on new developments in film technology; more coverage of recent films and filmmakers; more ethnic diversity (including new material on the Islamic cinema); and more lavish use of color and high-quality paper. An updated Companion Website contains animations, video clips from interviews with movie professionals, and Research Navigator access to New York Times film reviews. For everyone who wants to understand the artistry and meaning of the movies.