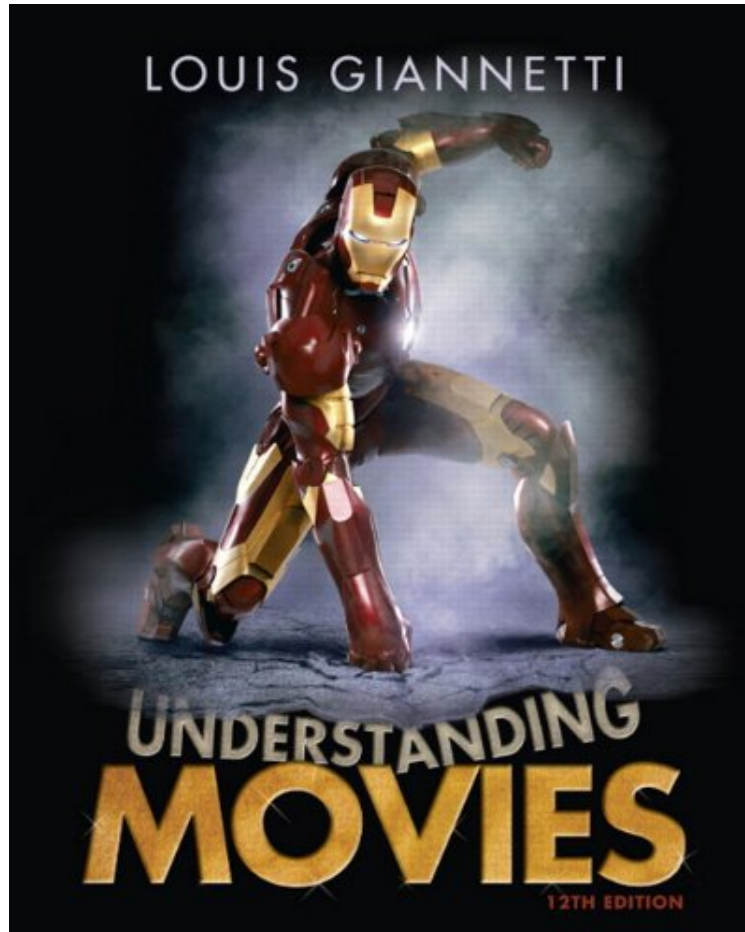


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Understanding Movies (12th Edition)

Louis Giannetti

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Louis Giannetti : Understanding Movies (12th Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Movies (12th Edition):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I enjoyed reading it By Michael Halverson 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. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. I really wanted to like this book, but... By Caitlin 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.

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.

From the Back Cover
Understanding Movies is the best text that I have found which covers the essentials of filmmaking in a logical sequence, comprehensively, using a writing style that will delight the most discriminating reader.
Janine Adkins, Rio Solado College
This Twelfth Edition of 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 aims to engage you in the fascinating language of film and to help further your own appreciation and understanding of why and how movie watchers respond as they do to different films. Organized around elements of film, the Twelfth Edition of this market leading text provides you with a new way of looking at familiar films through contemporary coverage and a visually engaging presentation.
Features of the Twelfth Edition:
Fresh coverage of contemporary films genres such as Animation (Ratatouille, Persepolis), and Computer Generated Imagery (Beowulf, Ironman)
Expanded discussion on how movies provide pleasure with insight into modern comedies such as Talladega Nights, Juno, SuperBad and Tropic Thunder
New examination and analysis of the role of cultural myths in popular culture
Inclusion of ethnically-diverse examples, such as exemplary coverage of Islamic cinema, introduce you to global cinema and encourage reflection on American film issues
About the Author
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, 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 United States. Giannetti'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.