

Engl245—Introduction to Cinema Studies
Midterm Assignment

Shot-Breakdown and Analysis:

Eraserhead (available on Kanopy):

<https://umw.kanopy.com/video/eraserhead>

Due: 2/18/21 at 12:00 pm (Email attachment in Microsoft Word)

****Everything but the Drawings Must Be Typed****

(Read the instructions **CAREFULLY**** so that you don't leave anything out!!)**

As you know from your required reading of Bordwell and Thompson's *Film Art* (chapters 4-7), the cinema employs an extensive audiovisual vocabulary to create a highly structured diegetic world. For your midterm assignment, you will perform a close-viewing analysis of five continuous shots starting from 52:50 on Kanopy's digital copy of *Eraserhead*. Segmentation is a basic skill that everyone in film studies learns. It is similar to doing a close reading of a poem or novel, but here you tend to film language. You must watch the **entire** film once before starting.

For the length of the five shots, perform these tasks **in the following order**. For Part I, do all four tasks **completing one shot at a time** as seen on the sample assignment I have also posted.

Part I (the "What?"):

- 1) Describe the elements of mise-en-scene.
- 2) Describe cinematographic techniques.
- 3) Break down editing to five sketches/film grabs and discuss the relation between shots.
- 4) Describe the use of sound.

Part II (the "Why?"):

- 1) Address the five shots in a **one paragraph** analysis that answers the following questions: Why do you think that David Lynch chose to direct the diegetic elements in the way that he did? How do the choices in mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, and sound advance the themes of this section of the film? Be specific.

*NOTE: I have uploaded a completed sample assignment for your reference.

