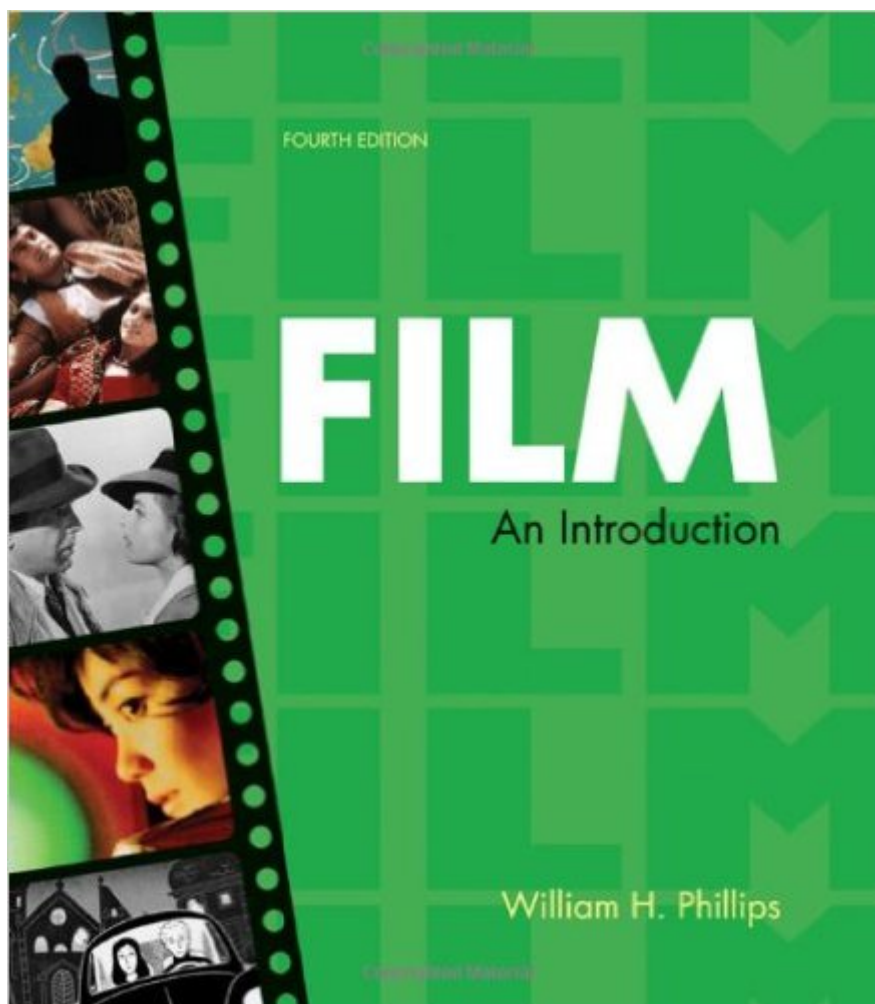


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# Film: An Introduction



## Synopsis

Film: An Introduction covers the movies students know and the films their instructors want them to know – including the silent classics of D.W. Griffith and Sergei Eisenstein, the Hong Kong cinema of John Woo, the documentaries of Errol Morris and Michael Moore, and the contemporary films of Quentin Tarantino and Peter Jackson. Through meticulous coverage, an unmatched art program with over 500 frame enlargements, accessible language, and unique study tools, Film helps beginning students develop the critical skills they need to analyze films and understand the medium in all its variety.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Phillips has written an accessible, up-to-date, and lively book suitable for anyone who wants a basic understanding of the art of film. It is arranged so that a discussion of film techniques is first, liberally illustrated with shots from numerous films (including newer releases). One of the nice features of the book is it identifies and points out the differences between publicity stills and frame enlargements.

The rest of the book discusses how movies are developed, their sources, genres, and characteristics. There is a detailed chapter on alternatives to live-action films (especially focused on animation). The book's final section addresses the social meanings of films, and provides a sample analysis of Altman's "The Player." Throughout the text are sample student papers, to demonstrate how to write about film in a critical way. In the introductory film appreciation class that I teach, students preferred this book to Bordwell and Thompson's "Film Art." For them, all the examples and photographs enhanced the concepts, while the marginal definitions helped them remember key

terms. Students also appreciated the inclusion of recent movies they have seen, as well as classics like "Citizen Kane." From this college professor's point of view, the book is best for beginners, who just want to know more about film techniques and analysis. However, even advanced students would find it a useful summary of film concepts.

FILM by William H. Phillips has as its strongest point its relevancy to current events in light of past film endeavors. Recent films are discussed in the 3rd Edition as well as other editions with clarity and insight. Also, it is a rare film book that discusses the economics of film making and marketing of film in theaters and video formatting. This work shows that other countries than the US also have an important cinematic history. This book encompasses both the American scene and the world historical perspective with its extensive chronology 1895-2003, and the relationship and mirroring of world events in film. This is a book to add to any collection of film reference guides. It is prime value for the money with 669 pages of prolific color plates and black and white photos of actual film shots.

I bought this book for an Introduction to Film class, and I think the book is very well thought out. The book goes into details about different aspects of the film making process, and lists important words in bold. Furthermore, there is a summary at the end of each chapter so you can review without rereading the entire chapter again. The book does mention a few movies when giving examples of different terms or techniques, but does a good job explaining what is going on in the movie before it gives the examples. Other film books just assume that you have seen all the movies that they are talking about, so they don't introduce them, while this one does a good job of that.

This is an outstanding film guide. It is very comprehensive, but enjoyable to read as the author has clear definitions and annotated photos of films throughout. It is a wonderful tool for the novice film student and a very insightful assistant for those who enjoy--but don't fully understand--the complexity, magic and imagination of all the gifted film artists.

In *Film: An Introduction* William H. Phillips of the University of Wisconsin gives a very comprehensive and enormously broad view on the art of filmmaking. Every aspect imaginable of film is addressed, although most of the time in a very introductory manner. This book is clearly mostly intended to an audience of future film critics, then to aspiring filmmakers. Nevertheless it succeeds very well in its main purpose of giving an introduction to film.

This is an older edition of one of the greatest film books ever written. This book is massive and helpful. Gives insight to hundreds of different film concepts, acknowledges countless incredible films, and jump starts your brain's creative and analytical film knowledge. Great buy!-Dr. Kenneth

As a college student this book fulfilled my expectations and more. It has online study exams and materials to supplement the chapters.

Book described as in Good Condition with minimal signs of wear. I paid more for this book over the ones listed in acceptable condition hoping it would be decent. This book arrived and is in very rough shape. Not as described.

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