

PAPER #1: 4-5 pages (typed, 1" margins, no larger than double-spaced)
DUE: Tuesday Feb 2nd at the beginning of class

Your paper should be a close analysis of a scene from *one* of the following films:
Bleak Moments, Hard Labour, Abigail's Party, High Hopes, or Life is Sweet

You will be analyzing one scene and relating the meaning(s) you find within that scene to the film as a whole. The point of this assignment is for you to engage closely with the elements of mis-en-scene: acting, casting, costume, props, dialogue, framing. And then to think about how the devices and structures that you find within that small segment of the film are echoed and elaborated upon within the film more generally.

Choose a scene or a section from a scene. Write a detailed **analysis** of the scene in terms of film language, with an eye to supporting your argument. Avoid excessive description.

For example, if you want to focus on how silence is used, describe the camerawork, composition, lighting, color, sound, acting style, costume, pacing, editing, the blocking of actors in relation to things not spoken. You can focus in on one or more of these elements, as they seem relevant to your discussion. Describe what's happening in terms of the narrative, only if it seems important.

Then try to relate the meaning(s) you find in the scene to the film more generally—how does the use of silence exemplify a theme that runs through the entire film?

Obviously you will need to choose a scene, or part of a scene, that is short enough to work with in the space of 4-5 pages.