

Dear All,

I just want to welcome everyone to our film group. I hope you and those you love are managing these difficult times and thank you for joining us. For new students, thank you for taking a chance on this. And for returning students- it's so good to have you back. I'm not sure what your signing up again says about your judgment- but I'm very grateful.

We'll meet every Monday for four weeks, beginning, January 23, from Noon to 1:30 p.m. Before class you'll get an email from me telling you the film, where you can stream it, and some questions to keep in mind when watching it. Typically, there will often be a nominal streaming charge of \$3 or \$4. I hope that won't be a hardship.

The format will be-- I'll give a lecture, then you'll wake up for a ten minute break, and then we'll have a conversation about the film- driven by your observations and questions. I can't tell you the four films in advance, because I don't know what they are. I tailor the films each week to what has been happening. So, for example, I might have thought I'd be showing a particular film, and then realize that we've had a string of heavy films and so we need something lighter this week. Or, I might have thought about showing Goodfellas and then decide that our group is not going to respond well to its levels of violence. So, I can't tell you in advance what movies we'll be seeing.

I want to beseech you to watch each movie as close as possible to our meeting. I know that many of you will have seen many, if not all, of these films. My hope is that this becomes an opportunity- to look at the film with fresh eyes, and to compare you experiences of a first and second viewing. At times, I'll be talking about the films in great detail- pointing to a line of dialogue or camera angle- and it would be best if the film is as fresh as possible in your mind's eye.