

Dear All,

I want to welcome you to our class. For new people, thank you for giving us a try. I hope this can work for you, but please let me know if you have problems or concerns. Going forward, each week you'll receive a letter from me telling you where you can stream the movie. This week's movie can be streamed from Amazon for \$2.99. And I'll provide a little introduction to the film and suggest some things to keep in mind as you watch it.

The movie is Adam McKay's: **The Big Short**

<https://www.justwatch.com/us/movie/the-big-short>

And to those of you returning, thank you for re-creating our group...which is such a satisfying and meaningful way for me to relate to movies and to some wonderful people. I do so appreciate your coming back.

When we meet on zoom, I'll give a lecture, we'll take a break, and then come back together for a discussion.

I'm not sure that I've chosen a good movie to begin with. I dearly love it, but it's certainly not for everyone. It runs on a lot of testosterone. It has an unconventional structure. And it's hard to understand. It was made with the assumption that some people won't understand it at all. Some people will understand a bit of it (me). Some people will get most of it. And virtually nobody will understand all of it. But it doesn't matter. You can still get a sense of the dramatic, moral, and economic significance and consequences of everything that's happening.

One last thought. If someone had said to me- I want you to make a movie that will explain the most important economic disaster since The Great Depression- how would I try to make an entertaining and yet devastating movie about the Crash of 2008? I would have NO idea. But this film seems to me a fairly creative and ultimately powerful way to get at that disaster.

Some things to keep in mind when watching it:

- the acting
- the editing
- the structure
- the techniques used to convey information
- the techniques used for comedy
- the use of the narrator....and why THIS particular narrator....and interestingly- the narrator doesn't just talk to us as an invisible voice.
- who are the heroes and who are the villains
- what is the movie doing with truth, and bending the truth, and lying
- what do you think of the ending.

NOTE: Every major character in this film is a real person and every important thing really happened.

Given the large cast, it might be helpful to lay out the main characters. You might want to have this with you when watching the film and in class, so you won't have to remember everyone's name.

Michael Burry- Christian Bale

Mark Baum- Steve Carell

Jared Venett-- Ryan Gosling

Ben Rickert- Brad Pitt

Charlie Geller and Jamie Shipley- the two young investment guys

also:

Mark Baum's team:

Porter Collins (nice guy), Danny Moses (loves food), Vinny Daniel (chews gum and is on TV show Succession)

Katy Tao- Black woman who oversees Mark's group

Georgia Hale- regulator from Standard and Poors- Melissa Leo