 Film Analysis Guide

Fill in the following table while you are watching Series 1, Episode 1:

| Concepts associated with ‘Power and Morality’ | Film Technique | Description | Effect on the responder |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Introduction to the morally ambiguous protagonist, Frank Underwood | Camera shot Camera angleSound effectsLow key lighting | The series opens with a high pitched squeal of tyres, the sound of breaking glass and the impact of metal against a solid object. A dog barks and whines as the screen cuts from black to an eye-level full shot of Frank Underwood opening double doors, responding to the sound of a crash. He walks towards the camera, shrouded in the shadows of street lights. | From the initial scene, the series’ antihero, Frank Underwood, is represented as a first-responder who takes charge in the midst of a difficult situation. Nevertheless, he is dually represented as a literally shadowy figure who emerges unexpectedly from the darkness. Responder’s first encounter with Frank inevitably foreshadows his attitudes, beliefs, values and actions throughout the series as a morally ambiguous but empowered member of the community. |
| Introduction to the morally ambiguous protagonist, Frank Underwood | Eye level shotMonologueDirect gaze | As Frank is responding to the mortally injured dog, he states, “There are two kinds of pain. The sort of pain that makes you strong, or useless pain. The sort of pain that’s only suffering. I have no patience for useless things.” While he was initially represented in an eye level shot, looking up and to the left, half way through the monologue he looks directly at the camera, effectively breaking the fourth wall. |       |
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