

Welcome to...



A Film Noir Sci-Fi



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- In 1982 Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert reviewed *Blade Runner* on their TV show “At The Movies.”
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 - Ebert gave it 3 stars.
 - Siskel called it “a waste of time.”



In 2007, when the movie's director, Ridley Scott, released "the definitive version," Ebert wrote this:

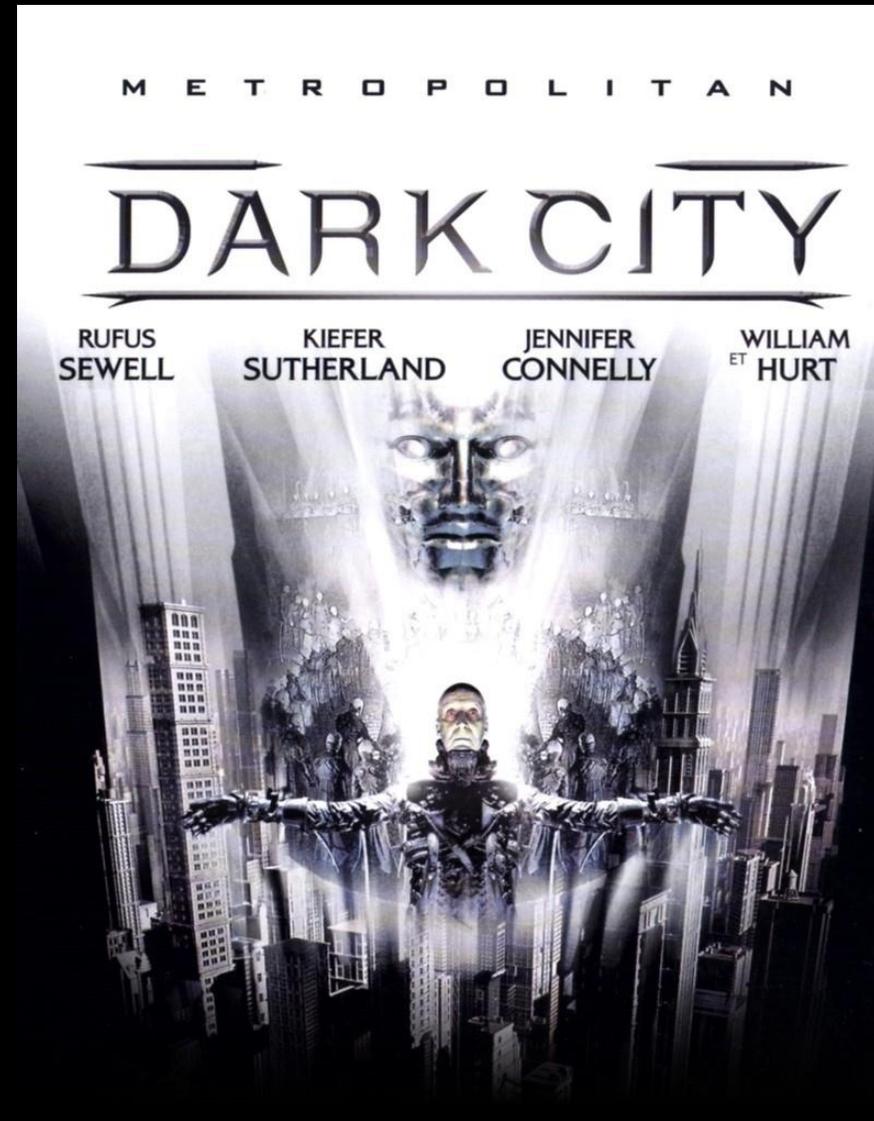
- "I have never quite embraced "**Blade Runner**," admiring it at arm's length, but now **it is time** to cave in and **admit it to the canon**.
- He then included the film in his "**Great Movies Collection**."

Ebert:

The biggest change Scott made in earlier versions was to drop the voice-over narration from the 1982 original. Spoken by Ford, channeling Philip Marlowe, it explained things on behalf of a studio nervous that we wouldn't understand the film.



• I continue to find it fascinating how film noir, a genre born in the 1940s, has such a hammerlock on the future (look at *“Dark City”* (1998) again). I suspect film noir is so fruitful and suggestive that if you bring it on board, half your set and costume decisions have been made for you, and you know what your tone will be.



How Film Noir Influenced '*Blade Runner*': The Perfect Marriage between noir & sci-fi by K. Fisher

- **Crime-laden cities, dark, rainy backdrops, hard-boiled detectives, femme fatales, morally skewed characters, a pessimistic worldview — these are just a few of the characteristics that define film noir.** But since its inception in the 1940s, **noir** has evolved to **encompass a variety of genres, including science fiction.** We have *Blade Runner* to thank for that.

The aesthetics of noir are central to *Blade Runner's* complex themes, and the film's impact on our pop culture has shown what a perfect marriage it was.

•BEFORE
•THE
•MOVIE



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- **I WILL PLACE
THE SLIDES OF
EACH CLASS ON
OSHER'S
WEBSITE AFTER
EACH CLASS.**



HOW TO ACCESS THE CLASS NOTES

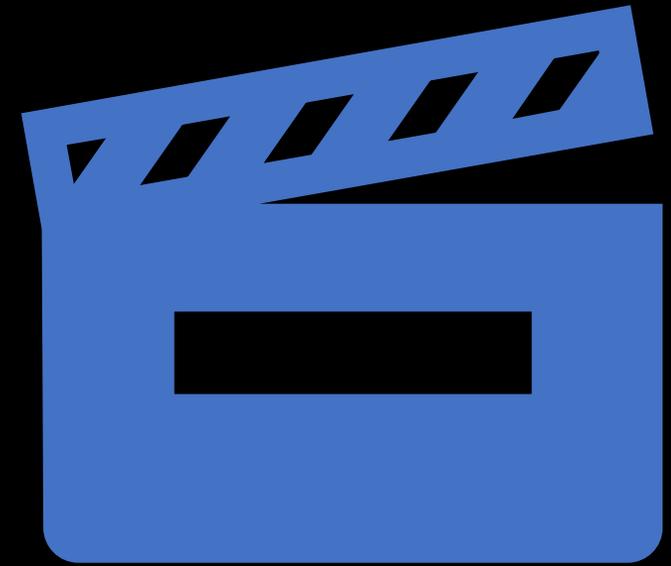
- Click on the Osher Website (not the Registration site):
- <https://www.wm.edu/offices/auxiliary/osher/index.php>
- On the left side of the page, click “Course Information,” and then click on “Class Notes and Presentation.”
- When the next page comes up, click on my name next to the class notes you want.

As you watch the movie, try to spot the Film Noir tropes* that show up.



*commonly recurring literary and rhetorical devices, motifs or clichés in creative works.

AFTER THE MOVIE



Blade Runner — Constructing a Future Noir

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_tbvMzqk3F4

22.

Blade Runner: 10 Tropes Of Film Noir (& How It Puts A Sci-Fi Twist On Them)

- *Blade Runner* pioneered the merging of neo-noir with science-fiction elements, resulting in a truly cinematic masterpiece starring Harrison Ford.
- By Ben Sherlock

Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner* is one of the most revered science fiction movies ever made, exploring the ethics of artificial intelligence and what it means to be human through the lens of a detective story set in a dystopian future version of Los Angeles. The movie takes the tropes and conventions of film noirs from the 1940s and transplants them into a futuristic setting.

**And here are the 10 Tropes Of Film Noir
counting down from 10 to 1**

10 A Hard-Boiled Detective Story
(With Robots)

9 Urban Decay (In A Futuristic Setting)

8 Voiceover Narration (Explaining The
Tech-Noir Mythology)

- **7 Femme Fatale** (who's An Android)
- **6 A Hero With Questionable Ethics** (about Speculative Ethical Concerns)
- **5 Saxophone On The Score** (mixed In With Synthesizers)

- **4. Alcoholic Protagonist** (drinking from strange glassware)
- **3. The Bradbury Building** (dressed up as a long-forgotten relic)
- **2. Sharp Contrasts in the lighting** (with neon lights)

1 Ambiguous Ending (Involving Implanted Memories)

And now for the world's shortest
Science Fiction Stories!

- The title is "Cosmic Report Card: Earth." The story is: F
- "Science fiction for telepaths" (1977)
- "Ye gods, we've created an uncontrolled fission reac—"
- STRANGE FOG STOP WILL INVESTIGATE STOP END
TRANSMISSION

- "Where are we?" "Not where. When"
- "Knock": "The last man on earth sat alone in a room. There was a knock on the door..."

And, finally, my personal favorite!

- **Boy meets girl.**
- **Boy loses girl.**
- **Boy builds girl.**