

## 21G.056 Visual Histories: German Cinema 1945 - Present

**Meeting:** October 2, 2003

**Film:** Percy Adlon, Bagdad Café, 1988

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1. brief presentation by Marketa
2. Readings for next week
3. Discussion of film:  
In the absence of narrative tension and dramatic unfolding of a story,  
what makes “Bagdad Café” worthwhile seeing  
A film can be “read” as
  - A historical document
  - A semiotic systems of signs (aesthetic construction and function)
  - A part of series of related films (intertextual functions)
  - A part of social praxis (political function)

Analyze in groups:

Variations of Leitmotifs

The aura of objects

The aura of nature

The use of music

Cinematography in the film

Utopian themes in the film

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