

Class Material:

- Film: Toby Haynes. *Brexit - The Uncivil War*. London, UK: House Productions, 2019.
- App: Neue Wege des Lernens. *The Language of Film. The Close-Up Film Language App* (English Language version)
- OR -
- Poster: Neue Wege des Lernens. *The Language of Film*.
Download: https://www.lmz-bw.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Handouts/Filmbildung/Plakat_Filmsprache_engl_LMZ.pdf (<https://t1p.de/wfuj>)

Overview:

Minute	Scene	Suggested, Corresponding Course Material
0:00-5:00	opening scene	close analysis, see below
9:00-11:43	UKIP dinner	variation of: class system_elite
11:43-19:05	brainstorming of Leave campaign	Task: <u>Characterize</u> Dominic Cummings as depicted in <i>Brexit - The Uncivil War</i> . (min. 0:11:43-0:19:05; 1:27:50-1:30:24)
19:05-21:30	meeting senior Conservative politicians	Task: <u>Analyze</u> how senior Conservative politicians are depicted in <i>Brexit - The Uncivil War</i> . (cf. min. 0:19:05-0:21:30; 33:27-40:27)
28:24-35:10	meeting AggregatIQ	data-driven political campaigning online
33:27-40:27	Board meeting	Task: <u>Analyze</u> how senior Conservative politicians are depicted in <i>Brexit - The Uncivil War</i> . (cf. min. 0:19:05-0:21:30; 33:27-40:27)
42:42-48:44	Remain campaign: traditional categorization of potential voters	data-driven political campaigning online_Sorting Hat (Harry Potter)
51:55-55:26	Michael Gove, Boris Johnson	<u>Analyze</u> how Boris Johnson is depicted in <i>Brexit - The Uncivil War</i> . (cf. min. 51:55-55:26)
55:55-58:00	data-driven political campaigning online	data-driven political campaigning online
59:18-1:02:40	forgotten voters	class system: forgotten men
1:15:00-1:17:00	murder of Jo Cox	
1:17:52-1:21:51	Craig Oliver, Dominic Cummings in pub	close of analysis dialogue, see below
1:21:51-1:27:50	Brexit vote	EU + Brexit_Focus: Brexit
1:27:50-1:30:24	closing scene	Task: <u>Characterize</u> Dominic Cummings as depicted in <i>Brexit - The Uncivil War</i> . (min. 0:11:43-0:19:05; 1:27:50-1:30:24)

Tasks

1. Outline the opening scene of the movie *Brexit - The Uncivil War* (min. 0:00-5:00).
2. Analyze the opening scene of the movie *Brexit - The Uncivil War* (min. 0:00-5:00). (The structure below might help you.)
3. Assess “Britain’s noise“ as referred to in the movie *Brexit - The Uncivil War*.

Opening Scene:

A: “Britain makes a noise. An actual noise, did you know that?”

B: I feel I should almost apologise. It says here you basically ran the Leave campaign, and, yet... and, yet, I doubt most people have ever heard of you.

A: It groans. It's been groaning for some time.

B: Must be annoying, Old Boris getting all the credit. Oh, I don't seek the limelight.

A; A hum, that only very few people can hear. Never stopping.

C: Mr Cummings? This inquiry was established by the Information Commissioner’s Office following revelations concerning the European referendum four years ago in 2016. Its primary purpose is to investigate the use of our personal data in political campaigns, and the way in which it is rapidly... altering democratic processes here...

B: A million important questions to be asked of our nation, our species, our planet, and no-one's asking the right ones.

B: I mean, we're an education Think Tank, primarily. And, er, well, you were once special advisor to the Education Secretary, so... Your reputation precedes you. Although we'll try not to believe everything we hear.

A: All I hear is noise.

B:

- Do you have any thoughts.
- (Cummings' internal monologue) Yeah, it's fucked, we're all fucked.
- What are your thoughts on providing strategy for our many clients?
- (Cummings' inner monologue) Be polite. Engaged. Don't tell them what you're really thinking.
- So... what do you think?
- What do I think?
- (Cummings' inner monologue) Just breathe, and think of Mary. Breathe? I think...
- Dominic? What do you think?
- (Cummings' inner monologue) Breathe. I think... Oh, shit. Stupid.

You should advise your businesses that as a global society we are entering a series of profound economic, cultural, social and political transitions, the like of which the world has never seen.

- Educated people are the most stupid.
- Massive increase in resource requirements.
- You need an Odyssean education.
- A rising tide of religious extremism. A synthesis of ...
- ... inter-generational inequality in the West on an historic level. Apollonian rationality and Dionysian intuition.
- I would tell them that for the past years, decades, even, this firm has failed... to prepare any of them for any of it.

Media: It's not like the UK has experienced anything like Brexit before.

- Brexit will never be a win-win.
- The course that Brexit will take... of our approach to Brexit.
- No-deal Brexit.

A: We live in a multiverse of differing branches of history.

Media: Brexit. Brexit. Brexit. Brexit.

C: My question is do you consider your campaign to have acted within accordance of British Law?

A: And, in a different branch of history, I was never here, some of you voted differently, and this never happened. But I was. And it did. Everyone knows who won. But not everyone knows how.“

This structure might help you:

location: janitor's closet	effect on the audience
camera distance - medium close-up	
camera angle - eye-level angle	
camera movement - static shot	
editing: - cutaway shot - straight cut - match shot - cutting on action	
music	
dialogue A "Britain makes a noise. An actual noise, did you know that?" addressee: audience	

location: job interviews	effect on audience
camera distance - extreme close-up - medium shot	
camera angle - eye-level angle - low angle	
camera movement - static shot	
editing: - cutaway shot - straight cut - match shot - cutting on action	
point of view: - mindscreen	
music	
dialogue B "I feel I should almost apologise. It says here you basically ran the Leave campaign, and, yet... and, yet, I doubt most people have ever heard of you."	

Commissioner's inquiry	effect on audience
camera distance - extreme close-up - medium shot	
camera angle - eye-level angle	
camera movement - panning	
editing: - cutaway shot - straight cut - match shot - cutting on action	
music	
dialogue C "Mr Cummings? This inquiry was established by the Information Commissioner's Office following revelations concerning the European referendum four years ago in 2016."	

Tasks

1. Summarize the dialogue of the characters Craig Oliver and Dominic Cummins.
2. -
3. Discuss the following quote by Craig Oliver in *Brexit - The Uncivil War*: "It's... it's about the soul of our country. I worry. I worry that we won't be able to heal... that this has created... [...] a type of debate, a politics that is unsophisticated, uncivilised and, worst of all, unkind. "

Scene: Craig Oliver, Dominic Cummings in pub

- "I didn't think it would be as bad as this. You?"
- No. But, then again, isn't that what these types of questions do? Force people into tribes.
- Still, I think it should be possible, vital even, for a country to be able to ask itself a question, and to be answered without... all this. Without such hate. Without fucking death.
- Yeah.
- Seems it's moved...way beyond our relationship with an economic bloc. It's... it's about the soul of our country. I worry. I worry that we won't be able to heal... that this has created...
- Exposed - we didn't create it.
- ...a type of debate, a politics that is unsophisticated, uncivilised and, worst of all, unkind. Seriously, though, you... you don't worry about the long-term repercussions of all this? Of undermining the very concept of expertise, of independent authority?
- Your experts had an agenda.
- Based on their knowledge. You are feeding a toxic culture, where nobody can trust or believe anything...
- That is not what I'm doing at all.
- ...where nobody listens to each other, they just yell. And the loudest and the rudest gets heard...
- And give people a voice who have been ignored for years.
- You're not giving them a voice, you're inciting them.
- Don't confuse me with Banks and Farage, they're the ones who are inciting people.
- How convenient that you had them to do your dirty work for you. Have you ever, ever really tried to stop them?
- You and your lot have dominated politics, political discourse, for decades, Craig, and what have you done with it? What?
- You can't close the box, Dom, once it's been opened.
- This is the new politics now, the way we will conduct...
- Change is exciting. [...]
- I think about it, you know? About the kind of country that they [the children]'ll grow up in.
- What is this? A "think of the children" appeal? Please, Craig. I am doing. I'm trying to get us ready. The train coming down the tracks isn't the one that you expected, it's not the one advertised on the board? Well, tough. It isn't even the one that I imagined. But I accept it. You can't stop it. You're right, there is a new politics in town. One that you cannot control.
- Be careful what you wish for. You won't be able to control it either."

Tasks

1. Outline the opening scene of the movie *Brexit - The Uncivil War* (min. 0:00-5:00).
2. a. Characterize Dominic Cummings as depicted in *Brexit - The Uncivil War*. (min. 0:11:43-0:19:05; 1:27:50-1:30:24)
2. b. Analyze how senior Conservative politicians are depicted in *Brexit - The Uncivil War*. (cf. min. 0:19:05-0:21:30; 33:27-40:27)
2. c. Analyze how Boris Johnson is depicted in *Brexit - The Uncivil War*. (cf. min. 51:55-55:26)
3. a. Comment on this review of *Brexit - The Uncivil War: The Guardian. Brexit: The Uncivil War – four political insiders give their verdicts. 2019, <https://t1p.de/imts>.*
3. b. Discuss: “Artists who examine politically volatile topics like Brexit have a responsibility to provide the public with honest portrayals - especially in a time where misinformation is a mainstream problem.”
(<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2019/jan/06/brexit-uncivil-war-reviews-andrew-rawnsley-gina-miller-gloria-de-piero-shahmir-sanni>, 10-24-2021.)