** **Film Noir**

*- Pessimism, fatalism and menace*

*- Dark style*

*- American crime dramas post WW2 era*

**Conventions:**

* Cynical heroes
* Stark lighting effects
* Flashbacks
* Intricate plots
* Existentialist philosophy
* Femme fatale characters
* Male detective characters
* Low key lighting
* The dark undertones of these films represented the disenchantment with the times
* The Great Depression
* WW2
* Disillusionment of the American psyche

**Lighting:**

* High contrast, low key lighting
* Shadowy effect
* German expressionism
* Heightened the somber tones in the film genre
* Rain soaked streets
* Street lamps
* Shimmering halos
* Flashing neon signs in seedy bars or buildings
* Cigarette smoking lingering in and out of shadows

**The Omniscient Narrator, Flashbacks and the Hero:**

* There is a often a world weary, private eye, central character who narrates
* Subjective, jaded point of view
* Flashbacks are used to tell the tale that leads to tragedy
* Tension and suspense are created
* Impending doom
* Heroes often are morally ambiguous, fatalistic and alienated

<https://www.britannica.com/art/film-noir>