

21L 011 The Film Experience

Prof. Thorburn

Lecture 10

1. Hitchcock and “the genius of the system”

2. *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943)

Context: WWII, H. in exile

Against Capra

The opening: behind any door or window . . .

An American town, an American family

Two Charlies: rhyming shots

Subplot: murder as diversion

The ending: ambiguity

3. *Rear Window* (1954)

The opening scene: confinement, voyeurism

An essay on seeing

An elegant structure: the subplots

Class and gender

The ending: more ambiguity