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

Meeting: October 2, 2003

Film: Percy Adlon, Bagdad Café, 1988

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      A historical document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 Leitmotivs
   The aura of objects
   The aura of nature
   The use of music

   Cinematography in the film
   Utopian themes in the film