**Research Paper Guidelines**

You will write an original analysis comparing two films from two different cultures. Analyze both films, come up with your own original claim about both films. Find something in both which you can compare and contrast in detail. Clearly, with 5 pages for each film, you will need to focus. You can’t talk about everything in the film. Pick a scene or two from each film to compare and contrast. Stills should be included, but they do not count towards the 10 pages, please include these in an Appendix. Use Endnotes, not footnotes.

You will spend your time backing up your claims. Obviously think about the film’s culture and history, when coming up with your argument. Think about its intended audience, the time period in which it was made, if it is reacting to a style of cinema, or trying to create a new style of cinema, etc.. It wasn’t created in a void. This will help you make more insightful claims about the films. I would suggest you send me your claim/thesis before you hand in the paper. Remember to send me a minimum of 6 scholarly sources – three for each film—by next week. For the final product, I expect at least 8 sources. You may certainly cite the book, but this will count as a ninth source.

You may **not** submit a survey paper, i.e., a paper whose thesis simply claims that you will present what others have said about the films. Do not recycle any other papers/projects, from any class for this paper.

Your paper must have a debatable and interesting claim.

The research paper must be a formal, academic essay, following MLA style guidelines. It must be 10 **full** double-spaced pages with one-inch margins, using Times New Roman, 12 font. Your Works Cited does NOT count towards your 10 pages. Please do NOT include a title page. You will upload your paper to LiveText. *You will not receive a grade for this class until you upload it to LiveText.* LiveText links to Turnitin.com directly. Check what Turnitin tells you. It not only tells you if you’ve plagiarized, but also indicates how often you quote. Make sure that you haven’t quoted more than 15%.

Anticipate reader arguments against your claim and refute these arguments to bolster you paper.

i.e. You could choose to compare two films which are normally read as political films. Obviously, you would need to define the term political film in your paper. Your thesis could be that these films should not primarily political films, but …. (here you would have to come up with your what they are instead). If you can prove this, that’s fine. However, you would need to refute other people’s claims that the films are indeed political, as well as explain why reading them politically is detrimental to truly understanding the films.

A reader might agree that there are other lenses through which to read the film, but conclude that the non-political layer is just another layer. You’d need to explain why the political layer is a nice bonus, but not the most important lens through which to read the film, because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Or, if in your research you find that someone reads a symbol in a way that you find ridiculous, you must respectfully address this reading and explain the weaknesses of that reading. Explain why the other point of view is not logical, not relevant, is outdated, etc..

Your paper must have a List of Works Cited. You must actively use and cite a MINIMUM of EIGHT scholarly sources. These are from scholarly journals and/or book chapters. You will use the UE databases to access the journals. You may include texts we have read in this class as well as texts from other classes, but only IN ADDITION to the other six sources.

Short film reviews from reputable sources, interviews with directors and/or actors, encyclopedia articles can be included (and must if you got information from them), but should also be counted as additional sources to the eight.

The research paper assignment is meant to promote thoughtful scholarship, and careful, critical, and convincing writing which includes respectfully acknowledging and evaluating other points of view.

At any point during the research paper process, please do not hesitate to ask me questions in class or in office hours. In addition, take advantage of the personalized Research Assistance Program offered by the library (ask at the Reference Desk) as well as the Writing Center.