

## FMS/TCL 270mg – Race & Gender in American Film

### Paper #1 Assignment Guidelines

In a 3-4 page paper you will critically analyze a film for the way it represents race and ethnicity. You will choose ONE of the topics below to write on.

#### Topics:

1. Analyze ONE of the following films for the way that it perpetuates the idea of the “Imperial Imaginary” as laid out by Shohat and Stam in their article: *The Four Feathers* (1939 or 2002 version), *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962) *Apocalypse Now* (1979), *Stargate* (1994) or *The Mummy* (1999). You may also argue that the film criticizes or even satirizes the idea of the “Imperial Imaginary.” In addition to your analysis of the film’s narrative, be sure to include some analysis of how the movie uses formal film elements (cinematography, editing, sound, mise-en-scene) in its representative strategies.

Also make sure you engage the reading, using points and concepts from Shohat and Stam to back up your own. DO NOT cite the lectures or PowerPoints. You only need to use one source for this paper.

2. Critically analyze the representation of whiteness in *The Hangover* (2009), *Die Hard* (1988), *The Lion King* (1994) or *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (2007). How is whiteness seen in relation to the representation of other races and ethnicities in the film? Be sure to include analysis of how the movie uses formal film elements (cinematography, editing, sound, mise-en-scene) in its representational strategies.

Also make sure you engage the reading, using points and concepts from Bernardi, Rameriez Berg or other authors from the course. DO NOT cite the lectures or PowerPoints. You only need to use one source for this paper.

#### Format Guidelines

1. Due to Professor Green as an e-mail attachment on the specified due date. No late papers accepted without permission from instructor or a university approved excuse. Late papers will result in 10% deduction for each day late after class begins on the due date.
  - a. Save the file as: LastnameFirstname – CR1.doc (not docx.)  
(e.g., GreenMichael-CR1.doc)
  - b. In the title of your e-mail, type Critical Review 1

2. Paper must be no less than three pages and no more than four. Shorter or longer papers will result in a 10% deduction.
3. Your paper must be titled. Feel free to be creative as long as your title is relevant to your topic.
4. Your paper must be word processed in 12 pt, Times New Roman, double-spaced between lines but not between paragraphs. 1" margins all around. Failure to comply will result in a 10% deduction.
5. You must use at least ONE reading from the course and properly cite it in an attached bibliography.

### Paper Guidelines

1. Your paper must include a **SHORT introduction** that concludes with a strong **thesis statement** or **question** that clearly asserts what you are going to argue or analyze in your paper. Especially because this is a short paper, this must be **specific!** Failure to include a strong, clear thesis and introduction will result in the loss of 10% of your paper grade.

**Example:** Despite the fact that *Casino Royale* demonstrates many traditional gender stereotypes, the movie is actually somewhat progressive in representing women. In this paper, I will argue that *Casino Royale* challenges traditional representations of gender, and in doing so resists dominant gender ideology in which men are represented as the superior gender.

2. Your analysis must include several of the **concepts** from the course so far.
3. You must back up your argument with **evidence** and **examples**.
4. Do **NOT** become bogged down in **plot summaries, definitions, long explanations of concepts**, or anything else that takes away valuable space for analysis and individual thought. While it is necessary to set context, you need no more than a few sentences to do this.
5. Make sure that you add a short **conclusion** that summarizes your overall argument or point or that answers the question you have asked.
6. Watch your writing. Excessively poor spelling and grammar will result in a loss of 10%. This means take the time to **revise**.

## Grading Rubric

- Strong thesis/introduction – 10%
- Quality of content – 60%
  - Critical/analytical thinking
  - Use of evidence/examples to support your points, including elements of film form
  - Use of sources
  - Argument is strongly woven throughout paper
- Organization/clarity – 15%
  - Organized into clear paragraphs and subtopics
  - Sticks closely to stated topic/argument
  - Writing is lucid, economical and clear
- Adequate length – 10%
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation, formatting – 5%