

Fall 2010

## Film Project in Three Parts

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This is a three-part project that you will work on throughout the semester. The point of the project is to lead you to develop the skills to be able to analyze, research, and present—that is to say, to confront and master—a significant French film independently.

You will be assigned a film during the first full week of the semester from a list of significant films by the directors we will be studying in this course. Watch the film (and watch it again, as many times as you find advisable).

Part One: Clip Analysis

Date due: September 24

- Select a clip of no more than two minutes in length that you find to be particularly significant and/or interesting.
- Analyze the clip, paying close attention to elements of mise-en-scène and montage, that is, specifically filmic elements. Plot and character psychology, etc. should be clearly secondary to a discussion of how meaning is created and communicated through what we see on screen and how it is put together.  
A sentence or two concerning the significance of the clip to the film as a whole is appropriate.  
If you choose, you may devote a few sentences to tying your clip to another moment or moments in the film.
- Write a 3½-4 page paper of your analysis.
- If you are capable of making a clip or are willing to learn (a skill worth acquiring; go to CLT and ask for help), that would be best. If not, please indicate precisely the chapter and time of the beginning and end of your clip and make the film available to me on reserve.

Part Two: Annotated Bibliography

Date due: October 29

A. Develop a bibliography of articles and book chapters on your film.

- This will include:
  - 5 scholarly articles or book chapters on your film.
  - 4 published review articles on the film
  - 2 articles or book chapters dealing with the director's biography and/or filmography.
- Mr. Benjamin Harris, a reference librarian in the library has prepared a list of a number of resources you might consult:  
<http://libguides.trinity.edu/frenchcinema>
- Feel free to consult with Mr. Harris if you are having difficulty locating materials. Phone: x8160. E-mail: benjamin.harris@trinity.edu
- For those of you in French, at least three of your secondary sources should be in French.

- It is possible that one or more of your resources will need to be obtained through interlibrary loan, but that requires one to two weeks for the item to arrive, so plan accordingly. Get started early.
  - Skim the material. You will read the selected texts carefully later.
- B. Make an appointment to see Mr. Harris by October 6 to discuss what you have found. **Bring** all available materials with you to your appointment. With his help you will narrow your list to
- 3 scholarly articles or book chapters on your film.
  - 2 published review articles on the film
  - 1 article or book chapter dealing with the director's biography and/or filmography.
- For those of you in French, at least one of the scholarly articles and three of the total of six must be in French.
  - This appointment is obligatory.
  - Mr. Harris will assign a grade based on your performance on the bibliographical aspect of this assignment (based on completion, critical thinking, and search methodology) that will count for 20% of the final grade for Part II of the project.
- C. Read the chosen articles/chapters carefully and produce an evaluative annotated bibliography.
- Go to the Coates Library home page. Under the heading "Help and Guides" select "Citing Sources;" from there, scroll down to "Creating an Annotated Bibliography." Scroll down on that page you will find specific information concerning evaluative annotated bibliographies.

### Part Three: Video Presentation

Date due: December 1

- Create a 10-minute video presentation of your film and upload it to T-Learn.
- Introduce the film and its significance to an audience that is unfamiliar with it.
 

This is not an evaluative critique; it is a focused analysis which presents a synthesis of original insight, visual evidence, and research.  
Make sure to present basic information: title, director.
- Integrate what you have learned in reading works (articles/chapters) for the annotated bibliography.
- This will be an edited video production (we will use iMovie) which will blend film clips, still images, narration (your talking head or narration) and text (title slides).
 

You will need to reserve time in your schedule to edit your work so that production values are respectable (e.g., audio is clear, transitions are smooth, clips, text, and narration are interlaced appropriately to provide a clear analysis).

- Prepare carefully for what you will say. Avoid the two extremes: ad-libbing & sounding like you are reading from a script.
- The presentation will include clips from the film(s).  
Be mindful that at least 75% of the time you must be speaking (between clips or over clips)
  - You must incorporate reference (compare/contrast) to the film we saw in class by the same director.
  - Instruction. Mr. Jeremy Donald will provide instruction in all of the technical components on October 14th in Room 103 in the library during class time (while I am away at a conference). Further instruction and materials will be provided.  
Make an individual appointment to see Mr. Donald during the first two weeks of November (11/1-11/12). Come prepared with clips.  
This appointment is obligatory.  
Mr. Donald will assign a grade based on your performance on your work with him that will count for 15% of the final grade for Part III of the project.

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### Information Literacy

Part One: not really

Part Two: Access, Understand, and Evaluate

Part Three: Create and Use Ethically

### Grading

Part Two: The grade on the access and understand components will be assigned by Mr. Harris. His rubric focuses on completion (did you arrive for the appointment with the assigned work done?), search methodology, and critical thinking.

The grade on the evaluative component, the bibliography itself, will be based on how well the student evaluates the sources, articulates the relevance of the articles/chapters (why are they useful?), indicates the central concerns of each piece, as well as their basic line of argument. Students need to take into consideration any evidence of bias, and address the level of sophistication of the piece (and thus the likely audience for it).

Part Three: The grade will be based on:

Coherence of presentation (organization: beginning, middle, and end).

Synthesis of arguments and perspectives taken from sources.

Evidence of clear, and yet not cumbersome, credit given to ideas taken from others (i.e. from sources).

An original perspective, particularly in the comparison with the other film by the same director.

An intelligent, original conclusion.

Smooth technical work, including intergation of clips from the film into the presentation.

Individual work with Mr. Donald, Information Literacy librarian.