

ESSAY #3

Due: Fri. 11/14 as a Word attachment over email to your section leader. Suggested length: 4 typed pg, double-spaced. Please keep a copy for your own records. Attach a letter describing what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the essay.

The goal of this essay is to enable you to analyze the power of a film (or a few films) as a vehicle for storytelling and/or cultural representation. Since comparative analysis typically sharpens our understanding of a particular text, this assignment offers several options for comparison. Be careful to select a few scenes for analysis, not the entire film!

- (a) Analyze the power and meaning of an individual film in comparison with the print text from which it was adapted. (You may choose *The Man Who Would Be King*).
- (b) Analyze a film (e.g. *Scarface*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*) adapted from an earlier original. In what ways does the meaning change in the more recent version? In what ways does each version reflect its historical era?
- (c) Analyze the representation of a social problem or a social group (e.g. racial/ethnic, gender, occupational) in a few contemporary films. What similarities and differences do you see in each film? In what ways do the films create a pattern of representation or a discourse or frame for understanding a social problem?

Note: You do not need to use outside sources, although you may find some course readings helpful.