Film Project

Due: Thursday, May 30th

Length: Short Film (3 – 5 minutes) and Abstract (3 pages) plus Storyboard (length variable)

Grading: This project is worth 25% of your total class grade: Abstract and Storyboard: 15 points, Movie: 10 points

In-class workshop dates:

• Thursday, 4/20: Figuring out what you want to make. Note – if you are working as part of a pair, you must let me know today.
• Thursday, 5/4: Film review and workshop: Getting your short films ready.
• Thursday, 5/25: Final film workshop/working day: Bring your storyboards.

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For this project, you will be creating a short film, as well as writing an abstract about your film. Your theme for this film will be our theme for the semester: The Art of the Movies: American Culture Through Film. Your film should express one main idea, some vision or opinion or argument you have: what is the main point you want to make with your movie?

You may work alone, or you may work with a partner in the class. But take care! Every one of you is required to hand in the written component separately, and this will be graded separately. The final film component will be a shared grade – both members of the group will receive the same grade. If you choose to work with a partner, you must let me know by Thursday, April 20th.

You can:

• Film a scene from one of our readings
• Film a scene from one of the movies we watched together (How will you do it differently?)
• Create a new narrative on any one aspect of American cultural life you find interesting

Parameters

• Topic should engage with one concept of American cultural life in some way
• 3 – 5 minutes in length
• Sound optional
• Live action or animated
• Any genre allowed except hardcore violence (no Saw movies please! 😊)
Abstract

An abstract is a short written piece where you both summarize and explain your work. Your abstract should be three pages. Things you can include in your abstract:

- What is your movie about?
- What main idea do you want the viewer to understand after watching your movie?
- What were some of your creative influences?
- What was your thought process – how did you first conceive of the topic?
- What were some of the challenges of your project, and how did you overcome them?

Storyboard

A storyboard is a sequence of visual representations which show the shots planned for a film. These can be drawings or sketches or done digitally, and generally include a brief written component to indicate directions or dialogue. This is your plan for your movie, created before you begin filming.

Different directors take different approaches to storyboarding: some are meticulously drawn out, with every moment of the film accounted for; others take a looser approach, creating more generalized sketches to leave room for improvisation while filming. You should take whichever approach most suits your style, but you must create a real plan and your storyboard should be complete.

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Formatting notes:

1) Abstracts should be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font. All papers should be emailed to claudiamorenoparsons@gmail.com or posted to Google Drive by midnight.

2) All essay files need to be .doc, .docx, or .rtf. All files, both written and film, including those posted to Google Drive, must include your last name and assignment subject in the file name (for example, ParsonsFilmAbstract.doc). You may attach your film and storyboards in whatever format you created them, or you can send links if you’ve posted them online. If you hand-draw your storyboard, take a picture and send me the file. Please note: I will return all incorrectly named files without reading them. Don’t run the risk of a late project!

3) The heading at the top of the first page of all work should consist ONLY of your name and assignment title.
**Works Cited and Secondary Sources:** Please include a Works Cited page (this is a separate page after the body of the paper) for all materials you read and used to help you with this project, using MLA formatting.

**Late Projects:** This project is due on May 30th to receive full credit. Late papers will lose one half of a letter grade for each day they are late, including days we do not meet (for example, a B will become a B- if the paper is one day late). I suggest you email or post to Google Drive late papers as quickly as possible in order to minimize point loss.