Extra Credit Paper Description

Each student may complete one optional, extra-credit paper, that can add up to 10 percentage points to your course total. The total extra credit received from both the paper and viewing logs together is 15%. The paper must be some original analysis of film, either at the level of the individual film, the individual auteur (often a director, but not necessarily), or the genre. In order to do such an analysis, you need to take one specific perspective on film--Use Chapters 10 and 11 of the Giannetti textbook for ideas on this (e.g., political ideology, semiological, historical, feminist, etc.). The list at the bottom of this handout gives many examples from film journals of how this can be done. The paper is NOT to be a movie review a la Ebert and Roeper, but rather an original, theory-based set of observations on your part.

You must use at least three (3) scholarly sources for this analysis. These will be either journal articles or scholarly books (a combination is OK). Use the accompanying list of scholarly journals as a start. Also, many books on film are scholarly, but not all—e.g., some juicy biographies of actors would not qualify. It’s probably best for you to check with your instructor (me) on whether a given book is scholarly. Popular sources (e.g., articles in magazines such as Time or Newsweek, or the content of most web sites) may be used as supplementary material, but will not count as one of the three scholarly sources.

The piece will be judged on the basis of its quality and depth, both in terms of the library sources used and the thought and theory behind the original analysis. The typical paper will receive about 5-8% of your grade, although I have given zero points to some papers in the past, when they are of the limited "why I liked Rocky 9" form. I have also given "total" points to some papers (10%).

A proposal indicating (a) the film(s) to be analyzed, and (b) the theoretic perspective used to do the analysis must be handed in by the first class period after the midterm, and must be approved by me in writing before you proceed. Unapproved papers will not receive extra credit. The finished paper is due at the final exam and will not be accepted after that time. It must be typed, double-spaced, easily legible, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Under no circumstances should you hand in the only copy you possess! Keep a copy in case the one you hand in is accidentally lost or destroyed. The final paper will probably be about 7-8 pages, but there is no real page minimum or maximum. Referencing of your sources must be done in APA (American Psychological Association) form, in that it's the most flexible and easy to use. (A handout showing the essentials of this system is available from the instructor.) Remember that too much direct quoting may be interpreted as plagiarism -- make sure your ideas are presented in your OWN words. Where quotes are used, quotation marks and proper APA referencing are necessary.

Any film you use in your analysis must be available on video/DVD or online, so that I may access it if need be. Also, you may NOT use any of the films shown in class (see list in your syllabus) as the primary focus for your analysis.
Scholarly Journals—articles from these are acceptable as Scholarly Sources

Cahiers du Cinema (French)
Camera Obscura
Cinema
Cinema Journal
Critical Studies in Mass Communication
Criticism
Film and History
Film Criticism
Film Culture
Film Heritage
Film History
Film Quarterly
Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media
Journal of Communication
Journal of Film and Video
Journal of Popular Culture
Journal of Popular Film and Television (formerly Journal of Popular Film)
Jump Cut
Literature/Film Quarterly
Mass Comm Review
Media, Culture and Society
Media Information Australia
Quarterly of Film, Radio & Television (formerly Hollywood Quarterly)
Quarterly Review of Film and Video (formerly Quarterly Review of Film Studies)
Screen
Velvet Light Trap
Wide Angle

Examples of Journal Articles that Apply Theory—The paper should do something along these lines (and all the citations are in APA style—good e.g.’s)

Realism


Formalism/Expressionism


Auteur


Semiology


Historiography


Genre Analysis


Political Ideology (Marxism)


Feminism

*Just about anything in the journal Camera Obscura


**Gay Studies**


***"OTHER" (not from class notes or textbook):***

**Psychological**


**Psychological/Perceptual**


**Literary/Adaptation**


**Literary/Autocritical Parody (M.M. Bakhtin)**


"Blakean" (William Blake)