

To Do For Week Two

Each week, you will get a list of things to your gmail address (and posted to OpenLab) that you must do that week to maintain attendance in the course and get everything out of it that you signed up for.

Introduction

We are holding a class discussion on Thursday, September 3rd from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. During this time, we will review and discuss scenes from the movies *Adaptation* and *The Disaster Artist*. We will go over the film journal assignment, as well as the first major assignment you will have, "the film inventory." I have already seen several extremely promising film journal responses even before we discuss my (high) expectations for these. I'm happy to also answer any and all questions you may have about any aspect of the course during this time. You do not need to attend, but obviously it will be helpful. These meetings will be recorded and hosted in the Course Documents folder. I will hold office hours immediately afterwards for those of you with additional questions or concerns.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/99232791355?pwd=aENZU2ZzaIR1NHhnMkY0bno1MTJkZz09>
Meeting ID: 992 3279 1355
Passcode: 361627

Week 1 Recap: What You Should Have Already Done

- If you haven't already done so, join our Discord server, <https://discord.gg/C72Pwsr>. You can always ping me there.
- Be sure you are a member of our class OpenLab at <https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/eng-2400-ol50-films-from-literature-fall-2020/>.
- You should have all Google Forms completed and done so as instructed.
 - Information Sheet (5 pts., Due 8/28): <https://forms.gle/cBNasw1bThjsD5nRA>
 - Self-Evaluation (5 pts., Due 8/28): <https://forms.gle/hjDX5g3KWxh3zfvX8>
 - 10 Paragraphs (40 pts., Due 9/3): <https://forms.gle/Yeu9zeMdXGjZD8ER8>
- Just a reminder that your Week 1 Film Journal for *Adaptation* is due on Thursday (9/3) and worth up to 35 points. You can do a film journal for *The Disaster Artist* (or other optional films) at any time during the semester for extra credit, but you really don't want to plan on doing a bunch of them towards the end of the semester because your credit will depend, in part, on your preparation. You don't want to rush these things.

Week 2: Film Journal Assignment (ongoing)

- During Week 2, we will be going over the expectations and standards of the film journal project, how it will be done, and where it will eventually live.

Week 2: Prepare, Watch, and Write About *The Passion of the Christ* (dir. Mel Gibson) (35 pts., Due 9/10)

- 1) Go to the course documents folder on Drive and read “Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*: Market Segmentation, Mass Marketing and Promotion, and the Internet” (Maresco, 2004). It is not a difficult paper to read, and it discusses how the film was one of the first marketed on the Internet and how that shaped its reception. Take some notes so you will have something to say for your film journal. Last for Week 1, we will be discussing it in class, but don’t skip this part of the homework—you will have a hard time understanding what we are doing if you do. This is an easy class to fall behind in and hard to catch back up.
- 2) Read “The Gospel of John, Chs. 17-19” (KJV, ESV versions) in the course documents folder. They are short, so read them both and see how different they are. I want you to notice how the language of the film mirrors the KJV and, in fact, is an adaptation of it. No need to take notes on this one. Like with *The Orchid Thief*, just read them as if you were beginning a new story. Notice how the story is told. Look at how the characters and the action of the story are portrayed. Again, this is necessary background to the film we will spend most of our time discussing.
- 3) Rent and watch our second film, *The Passion of the Christ* (see link [here](#) for Amazon Prime rental). written and directed by Mel Gibson and starring Jim Caviezel. Please watch it on as big of a screen as possible so you can absorb the...full effect. Again, if you watch films on your phone or tablet, you typically miss a significant amount of cinematic material. Take notes on the film as you watch it. What stands out to you? What do you like the most, or don’t understand? What questions do you have? What can you say about this film in terms of the filmic elements (e.g., cinematography, mise-en-scene, sound, story, and editing)?
- 4) Using MLA formatting ([link here](#)), write your film journal entry about *The Passion of the Christ*. Like with *Adaptation*, you can write about most anything you want. Again, I don’t need a plot synopsis (it’s in the Bible). Instead, give me a coherent perspective, ideally informed by your readings, perspective, informed opinion, and/or history with Catholicism or another religion. I trust you to come up with something worth writing about. One awesome (but time-expensive) option would be to compare it to our second film *Baahubali: The Beginning*, directed by S.S.Rajamouli. My only requirement, again, is that you attempt to make it insightful, which requires preparation, and it should be more than 250 words. Upload your film journal as a MS Word .doc(x) file to your individual Drive folder. You can name the file “Film Journal Entry – The Passion of the Christ.” Focus on the quality of your ideas.

Week 2: Watch and Write About *Baahubali: The Beginning* (dir. S.S. Rajamouli) (35 pts., Due 9/10; optional)

- 1) Read “Baahubali: A Review” (Ahlawat, 2017; 5 pages) in the course documents folder.
- 2) Watch the film *Baahubali: The Beginning*, the most financially successful South Asian film of all time, and first global blockbuster film out of “Bollywood.” It is currently on Netflix. You are not required to watch or do a film journal entry for this film, but if you do, you will get up to 35 pts. extra credit for your efforts. P.S. It is a remarkable film that could never be made in North America and absolutely worth watching. Do yourself a favor and watch it—it’s a treat.

Week 3: Look Ahead

1. One of your few major writing assignments, the film inventory will be assigned during Week 3 of class.