

To Do For Week Four

This is your Week Four To Do list that is emailed to your gmail address (and posted to OpenLab, Discord, and Drive). By completing these items you maintain attendance in the course and get everything out of it that you signed up for.

Introduction

WE HAVE A NEW ZOOM MEETING ROOM BELOW

Class discussion will be on Thursday, September 17th from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the new room with office hours immediately afterwards. We will review and discuss scenes from the movies *The Thin Red Line* and *Schindler's List*. We will go over the film journal assignment.

I'm happy to also answer any and all questions you may have about any aspect of the course during this time—because this is an online class, getting your questions answered quickly is always a priority.

Our meetings will be recorded and hosted in the Course Documents folder for your review.

NEW ZOOM MEETING ROOM

<https://zoom.us/j/92370166056?pwd=VHZaS1QrZTU2cVp3US9XWWFGdllodz09>

Meeting ID: 923 7016 6056

Passcode: films

Week 3 Recap: What You Should Have Already Done

- 1) Your Week 3 Film Journal for *The Thin Red Line* is due on Thursday (9/17) and worth up to 35 points. You can do a film journal for *Schindler's List* (or other comparison films from previous weeks) at any time during the semester. Remember, you must do two additional film journals from the comparison films at some point through the semester (for a total of 15). Any film journals you do beyond 15 will be applied as extra credit to supplement your grade. Don't rush them at the end of the semester though because your credit will depend, in part, on your evidence of preparation.
- 2) Review the language of the Film Journal Assignment in Google Drive so you can see what you need to be doing and how to achieve maximum credit on your journal assignments.

Week 4 To Do: Prepare, Watch, and Write About *The Matrix* (dir. The Wachowskis) (35 pts., Due 9/17)

- 1) Go to the course documents folder on Drive and read "[Computers, Caves, and Oracles: New and Socrates](#)" (Irwin, 2002) in *The Matrix and Philosophy: Welcome to the Desert of the Real* on Google Books. This book chapter examines the Matrix through the philosophical allegory of Plato's Cave. Take some notes so you will have something to say for your film journal. Again, don't skip this part of the homework—it will make the film journal easier.

- 2) Rent and watch our third film, *The Matrix* (see link [here](#) for Amazon Prime rental) written and directed by The Wachowskis. 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)?
- 3) If you haven't already, read the Intertextual Film Journal Assignment in the course drive folder to review the expectations for the film journals and some ideas about how to complete them successfully.
- 4) Using MLA formatting ([link here](#)), write your film journal entry about *The Matrix*. Like with previous films, you can write about most anything you want. Again, I don't need a plot synopsis. Instead, give me a coherent perspective, ideally informed by your readings, perspective, and informed opinion. You can name the file "Film Journal Entry - The Matrix - Your Last Name." Focus on the quality of your ideas.

Week 4 To Do: Watch and Write About *District 9* (dir. Neill Blomkamp) (35 pts., Due 9/17 or after; optional)

- 1) Read the webpage "The Harsh Reality of Life Under Apartheid in South Africa" (Blakemore, 2019; webpage). You can find it here - <https://www.history.com/news/apartheid-policies-photos-nelson-mandela>.
- 2) Watch the film *District 9*, a South African science-fiction film deeply rooted in the concept and culture of apartheid. It is currently on Netflix [here](#). You are not required to watch or do a film journal entry for this film, but if you do, you can use it as one of your two extra entries or receive up to 35 pts. extra credit for your efforts.

Week 4 To Do: Film Inventory (100 pts., Due - We ain't "doin'" it)

- 1) After some consideration, I've decided that we will not be doing the film inventory assignment as described. It would be redundant to work we are already doing. Instead, I recommend doing additional film journals to expand your repertoire of writing about films and to bolster your grade.

Week 5: Look Ahead

- 1) We will be watching *Boyz n the Hood* (dir. John Singleton) and *Do the Right Thing* (dir. Spike Lee) for next week.