

To Do For Week Five

Congratulations, we are now nearing the 1/3 mark of the course!

Introduction

Class discussion will be on Thursday, September 24th 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 Matrix* and *District 9*. We will go over initial grades for the first few weeks of class.

Our meeting will be recorded and hosted in the Course Documents folder for your review along with class notes for that day.

NEW ZOOM MEETING ROOM

<https://zoom.us/j/92370166056?pwd=VHZaS1QrZTU2cVp3US9XWWFGdlloz09>

Meeting ID: 923 7016 6056

Passcode: films

Week 4 Recap: What You Should Have Already Done

- 1) Your Week 4 Film Journal for *The Matrix* is due on Thursday (9/24) and worth up to 35 points. You can do a film journal for *District 9* (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.

Week 5 To Do: Prepare, Watch, and Write About *Boyz n the Hood* (dir. John Singleton) (35 pts., 10/1)

- 1) Read "[The New Ghetto Aesthetic](#)" (Jones, 1991) in *Wide Angle* 13(3-4). This book chapter examines the New Black Cinema films we are watching during Week 5 (and discussing during Week 6) through a critical lens of the role of women and black male masculinity. 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 *Boyz n the Hood* written and directed by John Singleton. 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) Using MLA formatting ([link here](#)), write your film journal entry about *Boyz n the Hood*. 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 incorporating your readings, perspective, and informed

opinion. You can name the file "Film Journal Entry – Boyz n the Hood – Your Last Name." Focus on the quality of your ideas.

Week 5 To Do: Watch and Write About *Do The Right Thing* (dir. Spike Lee) (35 pts., Due 10/1 or after; optional)

- 1) Read the short web essay "A One-Dimensional Portrayal of Women" (Elliott, 2017; webpage). You can find it here - <http://www.theciessential.com/do-the-right-thing/one-dimensional-portrayal-of-women>.
- 2) Watch the film *Do the Right Thing*, Spike Lee's acclaimed film about community life, racism, and police brutality in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn in the late 20th century. 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 6: Look Ahead

- 1) We will be watching *Paris Is Burning* (dir. Jennie Livingston) and *Trainspotting* (dir. Danny Boyle) for next week.