English 2400, fall 2019. Prof. Scanlan

**Final Essay Details:**

Directions: Using the handout on Four types of Ethics or the handout on Empathy, write an essay in which you explore ethical problems or empathy issues as they cross media boundaries. What this means is this: how does empathy or ethics change or stay the same when a written narrative is translated into film?

Text and Film Pairs:

William Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*

John Madden’s *Shakespeare in Love*

Philip K. Dick’s *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

Ridley Scott’s *Blade Runner*

Helpful Ideas:

1. Select one of the above pairs, not both.

2. Be sure to briefly define the type/types of ethics for the text/film that you select.

3. Make sure to select a small number of specific scenes or shots to illustrate your points. Briefly set up or describe the scene and its ethical/empathic importance.

4. You may consider how film and textual techniques work together or separately. Film techniques can convey ethics: close-up, camera movement, shot composition, framing, color, music, dramatic irony, etc. And literary techniques can convey ethics/empathy: narrator, narration style, word choices, sarcasm, tone, or irony, etc.

5. Above all, make sure that your essay makes an argument about how ethics/empathy differs between the text and film version. For example, students might consider if a central character seems less empathetic in the film version (or the text version). Another example: students might consider how women are treated in the two versions. Another example: is one version more violent (or more romantic)?

6. Do not use outside sources; I want to see how you engage with our class material and discussions.

Your essay will be graded according to these four categories:

1. A clear introduction, title, thesis, and method (25 points)

2. Concrete nouns, well-structured sentences, and clear paragraphs (25 points)

3. Accurate reading and examination of texts/scenes and at least four direct quotes from the texts, films, or handouts. Accurate in-text citations. (25 points)

4. Clear use of selected terms: ethics handout, empathy handout, five-part reading tool, film analysis handout, class notes (25 points)

Length: 850 words-approximately three full pages (use word count), 12-point font, normal MLA margins. Please use the Essay and Journal Format that I’ve provided in the “Readings” menu tab website. No cover page.

Due Dates:

Dec. 4: First draft due in class for peer review

Dec. 11: Final draft due in class: NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. EARLY PAPERS ARE ALWAYS ACCEPTED.