

Introduction to Film Final Project

For your final project, you will pick a media object (film, TV show, online video) and analyze its significance in relation to the three major preoccupations of the class: culture, industry, and art.

- **Culture:** Consider your media object in its cultural and historical context. How does it engage with ideas of class, race, gender, sexuality, ability, and/or nation? Does it reinforce or challenge dominant ideological constructions? Does it do both in different moments?
- **Industry:** Situate your media object within an industrial context. What entities and technologies shaped its production? How was it marketed and distributed? Did it start a new trend in industry practice or mark the end of an established one?
- **Art:** Look at the formal techniques that went into making your media object. How do sound, editing, framing, etc. shape its meaning? Do its formal elements correspond to or challenge a particular genre's conventions? Are there distinctive things happening here that don't happen elsewhere?

Your final project should be an 8-10 page paper or an equivalent creative project (talk to me if you want to pursue this option). It is due Monday 11/20 by 11:59PM. Email it to me (KLC122@pitt.edu) as a Word document with this naming convention: intro_lastname_final.doc (or .docx).

Before undertaking the project, you'll complete two preliminary assignments.

Project Proposal

For your proposal, you'll select a media object and begin considering its cultural, industrial, and artistic significance. Please choose something we haven't watched in class and that is not a case study in *IFS* – the goal of this project is for you to develop an original analysis of a media object. Your ideas can be speculative for the proposal, but you'll want to start thinking about why you find your chosen object compelling and what argument you want to make about it. You might list questions you want to explore through it, or detail a particular critical lens (like technology, audience, or gender) that will ground your analysis.

Your proposal should be 500-600 words, and is due Monday 10/9 by 11:59PM. Email it to me (KLC122@pitt.edu) as a Word document with this naming convention: intro_lastname_proposal.doc (or .docx).

Annotated Bibliography

The annotated bibliography is an opportunity to start gathering materials related to your media object and imagining the shape of your final project. The fact that you cite a scholarly or popular article here doesn't mean you have to use it later: this is a stage in your research, not a final accounting. Accordingly, I expect you to continue looking for sources and refining your list of references as we move through the semester. As you get a clearer idea of what you want to do, you'll have a better sense of what's useful.

For this assignment, I'm asking you to find and annotate 3 scholarly works and 3 popular works (reviews, magazine articles, blog posts, etc.) related to your media object. Some guidelines:

- Have a title, an overview (200-250 words), and a discussion of each work (250-300 words).
- In the overview, give me an update on the state of your project. How are you planning to focus your analysis? What is your argument about your media object?
- In the source discussions, don't give me a general summary. Tell me why each source is useful to you and how you see it fitting into your overall project.
- You can use one source from the class readings, but you're not required to.
- Use MLA citation style. A formatting and style guide is available here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

If you have questions about what this assignment is asking you to do or about how MLA style works, please ask.

Your annotated bibliography is due Monday 10/30 by 11:59PM. Email it to me (KLC122@pitt.edu) as a Word document with this naming convention: intro_lastname_bibliography.doc (or .docx).