

Philosophy in the Cinema Term Paper Guide

FIRST STEP:

For your term paper in the course, I am asking you to view one of the movies listed in the course Filmography that we are not viewing in class. You may also choose a film not listed there, as long as I approve it before you begin writing.

PAPER OBJECTIVES:

In this assignment, I am asking you to do all of the following:

1. Provide a two to three paragraph synopsis of the film. (Please don't exceed this length.)
2. Describe the three (at a minimum) most interesting philosophical questions raised by the film.
3. Describe the answers given to these questions in the film. The questions do not have to be the same questions that we consider in the course, though they can be.
4. Tie in at least three philosophical concepts that were covered in the articles we read. Be specific in your references to these concepts: describe them, explain which philosophers you are referring to, and explain how you see them at work in the film.
5. Your overall evaluation as to how effective you think the film is at raising philosophical questions (i.e. does it do a good job of getting the audience to think rather than simply passively take in the scene), and your reasons for this evaluation.

PAPER FORMAT:

Your final paper must be typed and double spaced. If it is not typed you will not receive credit for it. If you use 12 point Times as your font (which is what this handout is typed in), your paper should be around 5 pages or at least 2000 words.

DUE DATES:

Your film must be chosen by February 16th, though I encourage you to decide earlier as I will not allow more than one student to write on a film. **If you do not choose a film by February 16th or you change your film after this date**, I will subtract 10% from your final grade on this assignment. On that day, following our first exam, I will discuss the term paper in more detail and be available to answer your questions about it. The paper itself is **due March 15th**, and remember that late assignments will not be accepted except in the event of an emergency. Lastly, let me remind you that **this assignment is worth 100 points (20% of the final grade)**.