

CJN 255: Extra-Credit Assignment Nine: Movie Review

Due: April 5th. This is extra credit work and therefore late work **will not** be accepted. Any points you receive will be added to your Unit Three exam score (not to exceed 100%).

Instructions: Watch a movie either at the theater or on DVD and write a **500 word** review. Ideally you should watch the movie twice, and take notes while viewing. Use the questions provided below to write your review. This review should not simply be a summary of what happens or a rating of the movie, but a discussion about the important turning-points in the movie, important scenes which support or detract from the theme, and the impact of the various movie techniques used. For the review, you are basically answering “what, when, where, who, and how” along with your reaction to the movie. The review should include the following components:

At the beginning of the review, list the following information. Use the Internet Movie Database (www.imdb.com) to find this information:

- Name of the movie
- Length of the movie and its rating (R, PG-13)
- Name of producer, production company and director
- Names of the principle actors and actresses

In the body of your review:

- Brief summary of the content/plot (no more than four sentences).
- Analysis of characters, setting, theme, and style/technique. Use specific scenes from the movie to support your analysis.
- Your reactions to the movie.
- Conclude by summarizing the content and your reactions. Be sure to answer the question: Should your reader bother to see this movie?

Ideas to keep in mind. You do not have to include an opinion on all these aspects of the movie, but consider the following questions when writing your critique:

- **Plot** - Your review should not just be a summary of what happens in the movie. You might, however, discuss important turning-points in the movie; important scenes which reveal character; the importance of subplots (if they exist).
- **Characters** - Who are the important characters? What are their major traits? How are they revealed to you? Are the characters realistic? How well acted are the characters?
- **Style and Technique** - Note recurring visual images, symbols. How is music used? Discuss important camera and editing techniques, special effects, sound effects, and lighting if appropriate. What is the “look and feel” of the movie? Does it work to set the proper mood for the movie?
- **Theme** – What is the movie’s main theme and do all the elements of the movie work to support this theme? Does the movie present a cohesive idea, or is it scattered?