

English 197: Writing Link with Comparative Literature 272

Portfolio and Reflective Essay Assignment

Overview

During finals week, you will turn in a portfolio of selected writing and a reflective essay evaluating the work you've done over the quarter and the progress you've made as a critical writer. Remember the goals of English 197:

- to critically analyze films,
- to formulate and explore complex claims,
- to engage the work of film scholars,
- to identify significant questions and characteristic ways of building arguments in cinema studies,
- to evaluate your own writing as well as that of your colleagues, and
- to use feedback to revise your drafts

The portfolio may also include a revision of one of your essays; if you choose this option, the grade for the revision will replace your original assignment grade. You will submit your portfolio and reflective essay electronically via Collect It. I've included a link to our Collect It space on the course web site under "Assignments."

Length and Due Date

Length of Essay: 2-3 pages, formatted as described in the "Essays" portion of the syllabus

Due Date: Wednesday, December 10, by 10:00 p.m. via Collect It

Guidelines for Portfolio Selections

For your portfolio, you will select from your essays, homework and electronic responses, and peer critiques. The portfolio must include the following items:

- 1) A writing assignment that you improved significantly from first draft to final version. Include both the first and final drafts in the portfolio.
- 2) Two shorter assignments that best reflect your strengths as a critical thinker and/or writer. These can be homework assignments, electronic responses, and/or peer reviews.
- 3) An optional, substantial revision of one of your essays. If you revise an essay, include the graded draft as well as the revision in the portfolio. "Substantial revision" means more than just changing a few sentences and correcting mechanical errors; rather, you must expand critical analysis, restructure ideas, and strengthen the overall argument.
- 4) Graded drafts of all other essay assignments.

Guidelines for the Reflective Essay

Your reflective essay will explain how your portfolio selections illustrate your development as an analytical thinker and writer in cinema studies. Consider the portfolio an opportunity to gain a critical understanding of yourself as a reader, writer, and thinker by examining your writing and writing process. Reflective essays should contain the following elements:

- Title
- Introductory paragraph
- Discussion of how you've met course goals. Reference specific portfolio selections to illustrate your analysis. For example, how does your work show your ability to pose and explore tentative arguments? How do your homework and electronic responses exemplify

critical film analysis or engagement with film scholars (Dr. Bean as well as article authors)? How do your peer reviews offer detailed evaluation of a draft's strengths and weaknesses? What revisions did you make to your most improved essay and how do those changes demonstrate your ability to craft substantive arguments and to develop those arguments with appropriate, fully analyzed evidence? Overall, how have your practices of critical thinking, reading, and writing changed as a result of your work this quarter? How does your written work document these changes?

- If you include a revised writing assignment, describe what you have altered and explain how the revision substantially reworks the graded draft. Does the revision present a clearer, more focused, and complex argument than the graded draft? Feature more effective support for your claims? Present a more cohesive and better-structured development of your thesis? Use language more effectively?
- Conclusion: You might discuss the insights you've developed about horror film, film in general, film criticism, and/or critical writing as a result of your work in English 197 and Comparative Literature 272. What does your work tell you about who you are as a writer, critical film-viewer, reader, or student?

Grading

I will grade your portfolio and reflective essay on a 40-point scale:

- A Range: 35-40 points
- B Range: 25-34 points
- C Range: 15-24 points
- D Range: 7-14 points
- F Range: 0-6 points

I will use the following grading criteria to evaluate the portfolio and reflective essay:

- **Focus:** The reflective essay explains how selected documents demonstrate the author's development as a cinema studies writer and thinker.
- **Complexity:** The reflective essay exhibits depth, fullness, and complexity of thought.
- **Development and Evidence:** The author illustrates his/her discussion of learning with well-chosen portfolio selections and persuasive references to those documents. Moreover, the writer provides detailed analysis of all evidence cited.
- **Organization:** Reflective essay follows logical structure.
- **Completeness:** The author includes all required portfolio selections and his/her reflective essay features all required elements.
- **Clarity:** The writer expresses ideas clearly.