English 345: Women Filmmakers
Grading Criteria for Comparison/Contrast Essay

A 88- to 100-Point Essay (3.5-4.0, A Range)

- Has a substantive thesis and fully analyzes how the two films explore a well-defined theme; the thesis focuses on the significance of the films’ connections and presents a comparison that is defendable, clearly explained, and supported by the analysis
- Shows substantial depth, fullness and complexity of thought
- Expresses ideas clearly and commands the reader’s attention
- Demonstrates clear, unified and coherent organization
- Is fully developed and detailed with arguments supported by persuasive reasoning and references to films under study; there is an appropriate balance between providing evidence and analyzing that evidence
- Has a sophisticated style (remarkable variety of sentence pattern, smooth transitions between ideas, superior control of diction)
- Properly cites source material
- Has few, if any, minor errors in grammar, usage or mechanics

A 63- to 87-Point Essay (2.5-3.4, B Range)

- Has a clear thesis and essay analyzes how the two films explore a theme, but thesis and essay may not fully address the significance of the films’ connections; the thesis may be clear and well-argued, but could use additional support throughout the essay; or the thesis may be identifiable, but not sharply focused
- Shows some depth and complexity of thought
- Expresses ideas clearly
- Demonstrates effective organization
- Is well developed with sensible reasoning and appropriate references to films; however, some evidence may detract from the thesis and some ideas might not be fully explored.
- Demonstrates balance between evidence and analysis for the most part, but balance may be weak in places
- Has an effective style (some variety of sentence patterns, transitions between ideas, accurate diction)
- Properly cites source material, but may have errors in citation format
- Has few errors in grammar, usage or mechanics

A 38- to 62-Point Essay (1.5-2.4, C Range)

- Has a thesis that may not be entirely clear and essay does not fully analyze how the two films explore a particular theme; essay may mention many points of comparison and analyze few
- Shows insufficient awareness of the complexity of issues addressed; may treat the films simplistically or repetitively
- Communicates ideas clearly for the most part, but may have some lapses in clarity
- Has a recognizable organizational pattern, but the relation among parts is not consistently clear enough to provide a coherent focus
- Is unevenly developed; writer may offer sufficient reasoning or references to films for some of the ideas but not for others
- Demonstrates some balance between evidence and analysis
\begin{itemize}
\item Has an adequate style (limited variation in sentence patterns, transitions between most ideas, diction accurate for the most part)
\item Cites the majority of source material, but occasionally material may be clearly cited but not referenced in parentheses
\item Has some errors in grammar, usage or mechanics, but demonstrates basic control of these areas
\end{itemize}

\textbf{A 8- to 37-Point Essay (0.7-1.4, D Range)}

\begin{itemize}
\item Has an unclear thesis; essay identifies similarities and differences and meets basic length requirements, but does not compare the films' treatment of the theme in any meaningful fashion
\item Lacks focus or demonstrates confused, stereotyped or simplistic thinking; writer may demonstrate no overall conception of the issues raised by the films
\item May not communicate ideas clearly
\item Is ineffectively organized, with no clear relationship between the parts of the essay
\item May not provide adequate or appropriate reasoning or references to support generalizations, or may provide details without generalizations
\item Demonstrates little relationship between evidence and the thesis
\item Has stylistic weaknesses (no variety of sentence patterns, few transitions, imprecise diction)
\item Indicates use of source material, but does not have consistent parenthetical references
\item Has occasional major errors in grammar, usage or mechanics or frequent minor errors that interfere in the reader's understanding of the essay
\end{itemize}

\textbf{A 0- to 7-Point Essay (0-0.6, F Range)}

\begin{itemize}
\item Has no thesis or has an incomprehensible thesis
\item May be deliberately off-topic and demonstrate no understanding of the issues addressed by the films
\item Does not communicate ideas clearly
\item Lacks coherent organization
\item Shows no development of ideas; may simply summarize film
\item Has an incoherent style (difficulties with sentence structure, pattern of diction errors)
\item Presents another writer's work as the author's own
\item Has pervasive pattern of errors in grammar, usage and mechanics that renders the essay unreadable
\end{itemize}