

## Assignment 1 - Movie Reviews

### Overview

Your assignment is to watch 5 films and analyze how tropical rain forests are presented in the film and used to advance the film's narrative. Your essay should not be a summary of the film (i.e., a *descriptive review*), nor a judgment that the film is "good" or "bad" (i.e., an *evaluative review*). Your objective is to present a brief analysis (500-700 words) interpreting:

- how the rain forest setting underscores the film's themes
- how the film reinforces or subverts stereotypes about rain forests and the people that live in them
- how the depiction of rain forests in the film compares with what you have learned about rain forests in class.

You must support your claim with specific examples of:

- dialogue
- characters, character development
- shots and visuals, editing
- props, sounds, scoring, songs
- plot points and action

Use the Movie Trope Checklist to take notes and record this information during your initial screening.

### Films

**Films to review:** These are the films we will be watching and reviewing:

- Aguirre, Wrath of God
- Anaconda
- Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest OR Avatar
- One assigned (at random) by the Instructor
- One chosen by you from the list below.

**How to watch:** The films are available via the UF Library access to Kanopy, other free online platforms, or as DVDs that can be checked out from the UF Library's Course Reserves. *The streaming platforms are:*

- [Tubi](#)
- [Kanopy](#)
- [Plex](#)

- YouTube
- Crackle
- Pluto TV
- Film Detective
- YuppTV
- IMDB
- Digitalia

**Content Warning:** The some of the assigned films contain strong language, sexual situations, and violence. There may be dialogue about or depictions of race, class, gender, sexuality, sexual assault, or other topics that is uncomfortable, disturbing, or offensive. Analyzing these depictions and their impact is an important part of this assignment, so I encourage you to prepare yourself emotionally for this possibility. If you believe that you will find the films you have been assigned to be traumatizing, however, please let me know so we can arrange an alternative for you to review. You don't have to tell me why you want to switch, only that you would prefer to be assigned another film.

**Language:** Some of the films may be partially or entirely in languages other than English and require subtitles.

- **Extra Credit:** Remember what I said about value judgments? Well...let's just say there are some movies that are so challenging to sit through that extra credit will be given to anyone selecting one of them for their 5th review. If you have already completed your five reviews, you can still earn extra credit for every one of these you watch and fill out a Movie Trope Checklist for (no essay required).

## Submission Requirements and Rubric

For each film you must submit the following:

1. A 500-700 word critical analysis
2. A completed Movie Trope Checklist

Assignment Submission: These assignments are to be submitted using the Google Forms link provided in Canvas.

Assignment value: XXX points

Due Date: The assignment is due

Rubric:

## II. Movies

Movie	Year	Summary	Free	Subscription
<b>Required</b>				
Aguirre, Wrath of God	1972	In the 16th century, the ruthless and insane Don Lope de Aguirre leads a Spanish expedition in search of El Dorado.	Kanopy, Tubi	
Anaconda	1997	A "National Geographic" film crew is taken hostage by an insane hunter, who forces them along on his quest to capture the world's largest - and deadliest - snake.	DVD, Roku	
Avatar	2009	A paraplegic Marine dispatched to the moon Pandora on a unique mission becomes torn between following his orders and protecting the world he feels is his home.	DVD	Disney Plus
Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest	1992	The magical inhabitants of a rainforest fight to save their home, which is threatened by logging and a polluting force of destruction called Hexxus.	DVD	
<b>Choose 1</b>				
A Perfect Getaway	2009	A romantic Hawaiian vacation turns deadly for two pairs of lovers, when a duo of murderers begins targeting tourists who cannot escape the island.	Tubi	
African Queen	1951	In WWI Africa, a gin-swilling riverboat captain is persuaded by a strait-laced missionary to use his boat to attack an enemy warship.	Kanopy	Amazon
Apocalypse Now	1979	A U.S. Army officer serving in Vietnam is tasked with assassinating a renegade Special Forces Colonel who sees himself as a god.	Kanopy	
Apocalypto	2006	A Mayan warrior braves the treacherous jungle to fight off attacking members of an opposing tribe in order to save his family.	Kanopy, Tubi	
Canopy	2013	An Australian fighter pilot becomes stranded in a Singapore jungle overrun by hostile forces as he journeys to survive war and nature.	Kanopy, Tubi	
Congo	1995	When an expedition to the African Congo ends in disaster, a new team is assembled to find out what went wrong.	DVD, Crackle, Pluto, Plex	Netflix
Creature from the Black Lagoon	1954	A strange prehistoric beast lurks in the depths of the Amazonian jungle. A group of scientists try to capture the animal and bring it back to civilization for study.	DVD	
Death in the Garden	1956	Chark, an adventurer, comes to a small village near a diamond miners' camp. He is arrested by the local police who accuse him of having committed a bank robbery in a neighboring town.	Kanopy	
Embrace of the Serpent	2015	The story of the relationship between Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and last survivor of his people, and two scientists who work together over the course of forty years to search the Amazon for a sacred healing plant.	Kanopy	
Emerald Forest	1985	After the son of engineer Bill Markham is abducted by an aboriginal tribe on the edge of the rain forest, the engineer spends the next 10 years searching for him.	DVD	

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Movie	Year	Summary	Free	Subscription
Fire on the Amazon	1993	When a man is assassinated in the rainforest, a journalist and an activist team up to solve the case when they believe they've encountered a cover-up.	Tubi	
Fitzcarraldo	1982	The story of Brian Sweeney Fitzgerald, an extremely determined man who intends to build an opera house in the middle of a jungle.	Kanopy, Tubi	
Gauguin: Voyage to Tahiti	2017	Historical drama based on the French painter Paul Gauguin's self-exile in Tahiti where he befriended the Maoris and fell in love with an iconic muse.	Kanopy, Tubi	
Gold	2016	A prospector out to strike gold gets a rare chance at his goal when he goes on an incredible trip to the Indonesian jungle with a gung-ho geologist.	Tubi	
In Like Flynn	2019	The adventures of actor Errol Flynn before he became a star, as he searches for gold with a ragtag crew in the jungles of Papua New Guinea.	Tubi	
Journey 2: The Mysterious Island	2012	Sean Anderson partners with his mom's husband on a mission to find his grandfather, who is thought to be missing on a mythical island.	Yupp Tv	
Medicine Man	1992	In the beautiful and dangerous Amazon rainforest, dissimilar people must make their choices between business, science, and love.	DVD	
Monos	2019	On a faraway mountaintop, eight kids with guns watch over a hostage and a conscripted milk cow.	Kanopy	Hulu
Mosquito Coast	1986	Allie Fox, an American inventor exhausted by the perceived danger and degradation of modern society, decides to escape with his wife and children to Belize. In the jungle, he tries with mad determination to create a utopian community with disastrous results.	DVD	Hulu
Platoon	1986	Chris Taylor, a neophyte recruit in Vietnam, finds himself caught in a battle of wills between two sergeants, one good and the other evil. A shrewd examination of the brutality of war and the duality of man in conflict.	Pluto	Fubo
Predator	1987	A team of commandos on a mission in a Central American jungle find themselves hunted by an extraterrestrial warrior.	DVD	Amazon
Rio 2	2014	It's a jungle out there for Blu, Jewel and their three kids after they're hurtled from Rio de Janeiro to the wilds of the Amazon. As Blu tries to fit in, he goes beak-to-beak with the vengeful Nigel, and meets his father-in-law.	DVD, IMDB	
Romancing the Stone	1984	A mousy romance novelist sets off for Colombia to ransom her kidnapped sister, and soon finds herself in the middle of a dangerous adventure hunting for treasure with a mercenary rogue.	DVD	
Six Days Seven Nights	1998	Robin Monroe, a New York magazine editor, and the gruff pilot Quinn Harris must put aside their mutual dislike if they are to survive after crash landing on a deserted South Seas island.	DVD	Cinemax
The Mission	1986	Eighteenth-century Spanish Jesuits try to protect a remote South American tribe in danger of falling under the rule of pro-slavery Portugal.	DVD	
The Ruins	2008	A leisurely Mexican holiday takes a turn for the worse when a group of friends and a fellow tourist embark on a remote archaeological dig in the jungle, where something evil lives among the ruins.	DVD	Paramount, Amazon

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The Rundown	2003	A tough aspiring chef is hired to bring home a mobster's son from the Amazon but becomes involved in the fight against an oppressive town operator and the search for a legendary treasure.	Peacock	
Turistas	2006	A group of young backpackers' vacation turns sour when a bus accident leaves them marooned in a remote Brazilian rural area that holds an ominous secret.	DVD	
Welcome to the Jungle	2013	A company retreat on a tropical island goes terribly awry.	DVD	
Dora and The Lost City of Gold	2019	Dora, a teenage explorer, leads her friends on an adventure to save her parents and solve the mystery behind a lost city of gold.		Paramount
Green Inferno	2013	A group of student activists travels to the Amazon to save the rain forest and soon discover that they are not alone, and that no good deed goes unpunished.		Netflix
Jungle	2017	A group of friends join a guide for a trek into the Bolivian jungle, searching for an Indian village. The men soon realize that the jungle is a difficult place to be.		Amazon
Jungle 2 Jungle	1997	A man learns he has a thirteen-year-old son who was raised in the jungle and brings the boy to New York City, turning his life upside down in the process.		Disney Plus
Jungle Book	2016	After a threat from the tiger Shere Khan forces him to flee the jungle, a man-cub named Mowgli embarks on a journey of self discovery with the help of panther Bagheera and free-spirited bear Baloo.		Disney Plus
Lost City of Z	2016	A true-life drama, centering on British explorer Major Percival Fawcett, who disappeared whilst searching for a mysterious city in the Amazon in the 1920s.		Amazon
Tarzan (animated)	1999	A man raised by gorillas must decide where he really belongs when he discovers he is a human		Disney Plus
The Beach	2000	On vacation in Thailand, Richard sets out for an island rumored to be a solitary beach paradise.		Starz
Tropic Thunder	2008	Through a series of freak occurrences, a group of actors shooting a big-budget war movie are forced to become the soldiers they are portraying.		Paramount, Amazon
<b>Extra Credit</b>				
Africa Screams	1949	Two city booksellers scheme their way into an African expedition by posing as seasoned safari hunters to get a piece of a hidden diamond mine.	Tubi	
Blood Monkey	2007	A revered but mad professor leads a band of students into the African jungle to find a tribe of killer chimpanzees he believes to be the missing link.	Tubi, YouTube	
Bride of the Gorilla	1951	The wife of a plantation owner is terrorized by a gorilla, who turns out to be her husband.	Tubi	
DNA	1996	When a mad scientist experiments with the bones of an extinct jungle creature, the voracious beast comes to life, and only two people can stop it.	Tubi	

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Dragon Wasps	2012	A scientist joins with the U.S. army in the jungles of Belize to find her father and has to deal with war crossfire and flame-shooting giant wasps.	Tubi	
East of Borneo	1931	Woman treks through jungle to find her missing husband.	Film Detective	
Indigenous - Chupacabra	2014	A group of Americans traveling in Panama trek through the jungle in spite of being warned that the legendary Chupacabra may be on the hunt.	Tubi	
Lord of the Elves	2012	In an ancient age, the peace-loving Hobbits are enslaved by the Java Men, a race of flesh-eating dragon-riders. The young Hobbit Goben must join forces with their neighbor giants, the humans, to free his people and vanquish their enemies.	Tubi	
Piranhaconda	2012	Two piranha/anaconda hybrid creatures hunt down the scientist who stole their egg and a film crew; making a slasher film in the jungle.	Tubi	
Wild Women of Wongo	1958	On the tropical island of Wongo, a tribe of beautiful women discover that the other side of the island is inhabited by a tribe of handsome men. They also discover that a tribe of evil ape men live on the island, too, and the ape men are planning a raid on the tribe in order to capture mates.	Digitalia	

**Note:** You can watch the trailers by searching for the movie on [IMDB](#) or searching for the trailer on [YouTube](#)