



African Film & Literature – 2023
TERM PAPER (40%) – Final Essay

Objectives and Description

The objective of this assignment is to conduct self-directed research, engage with sources, develop a cogent argument, and cite your sources properly using the research skills acquired from your T&M lessons. Accordingly, this assignment aims to:

- Sharpen your analytical skills using tools from the WOC and T&M courses
- Develop your ability to make a cogent argument
- Present complex ideas in a clear, coherent and concise manner
- Engage with academic sources and reference an academic paper using APA style
- Improve your skills in critical thinking and independent criticism

Assignment Details

- For this assignment, you will write a short comparative analysis in academic writing style (APA) on the topic, “Finding Comparative Meaning in Intriguing Texts”.
- Write a comparative analysis of **two texts** using at least **two thematic lenses we covered this semester listed on the SYLLABUS** (for examples of thematic lenses: **Fight Against Religious Corruption; Colonialism: Change and Continuity; Shifting Identities & Culture; British Misrule** etc).
- Your analysis should use **four concepts or genres (for example: mimicry, neocolonialism, relational power, satire, biopic, romance)** that you have learned in this class.
- Your analysis must make use of FILM ANALYSIS terminology.
- In your analysis, you must quote or paraphrase at least **five supporting sources** (in addition to your chosen text) to substantiate your analysis. PLEASE READ THE SUPPORT TEXTS I SHARED WITH YOU ABOUT USING THE LIBRARY REMOTEX DATABASES/GOOGLE SCHOLAR TO FIND **CREDIBLE SOURCES**.
- You should start by describing your **initial** impression of the text (Why did you like it? Why did you not like it?) and conclude with the **meaning** you have discovered in your chosen text.
- *You should not select any texts you’ve written on in previous assignments.*

On Your Texts Choice:

- You may choose from any two of the texts on the **SYLLABUS**.
- You may also choose your own text, HOWEVER, at least **ONE** text you choose has to be from the **SYLLABUS**. **If you choose your own text, you must have it pre-approved by the instructor.** For example, I might want to do a textual comparison between *Sarafina!*, *Dilemma of a Ghost*, and *The Men They Married*.
- Your text selections must be **MIXED MEDIA**. That means that at least **ONE** of your chosen texts must be a film, and the other a literary text or play, for example.

Process and Steps

Be sure to:

1. Briefly summarize your chosen text. **REMEMBER:** this should be brief and appear as contextual information in your opening paragraph before you clearly state your thesis statement. PLEASE REFER TO MY "THINGS TO BE MINDFUL OF IN YOUR FINAL DRAFT" supporting materials (CANVAS>Toolkit).
2. Make sure you have a clear thesis using relevant lectures and supporting texts.
3. Define the concepts you use the first time you use them. **DO NOT BOLD, ITALICIZE, OR UNDERLINE CONCEPTS OR THESIS STATEMENT.**
4. Quote supporting sources using **PROPER APA** citing conventions.
5. Include a reference page with a minimum of five (5) sources.
6. Include at least two sources from academic journals.
7. Use at least two relevant readings from class. SEE SYLLABUS and CANVAS
8. **DO NOT** include a title page.

Technical Aspects

- Length: 6-8 pages double spaced. **This means between paragraphs as well. NO INSANE GAPS, PLEASE.**
- Word file to be submitted in the assignment section on Canvas ONLY
- [APA citation style](#) and reference list
- Font: Times New Roman
- Size: 12

Due Dates

Final essay due via Turnitin in Canvas Monday 15 May at **23:59 GMT**

Anyone who wants comments on a draft, email me your draft.

Grading Rubric

This assignment will be graded out of 100 points:

Criteria	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement
Introduction (10, 7.5, 6, 5)	Interesting and relevant hook; clear and concise thesis statement (of main argument - major claim - about themes and techniques)	Somewhat good hook; thesis statement lacks clarity or concision (on one items)	Acceptable hook; thesis statement lacks clarity or concision (of two major items)	Irrelevant hook; thesis statement lacks clarity and concision (of two or more major items)
Main Body (40, 30, 24, 20)	Adequate development of argument or substantiation of claims; clear use of at least four concepts from two different lenses, adequate use of examples and evidence from the text	Lacks adequate development, one concept not use adequately, somewhat relevant evidence	Lacks two requirements	Lacks more than two requirements
Conclusion (5, 3.75, 3, 2.5)	Restatement of thesis, summary of main arguments, and relevant and final remarks highlighting insights from the analysis of the text	Somewhat clear and relevant conclusion, one component missing or incomplete	Acceptable conclusion, some components missing	Unclear conclusion with several missing components
Style and clarity of expression (15, 11.5, 9, 7.5)	Clear and engaging written language; avoids vague pronouns, passive voice, redundancies, dummy subjects	A few issues with the style (redundancies, passive, vague pronouns, etc.)	Several issues with style	Style impedes readability and understanding
Mechanics (15, 11.5, 9, 7.5)	Document carefully proofread to eliminate typographical, spelling, punctuation, grammar, syntax errors	A few mistakes	Several mistakes	Excessive errors impede readability and understanding
Structure (15, 11.5, 9, 7.5)	Logical sequence of arguments, well structured paragraphs (topic, supporting, and concluding sentences)	Adequate structure and paragraphs despite a few issues	Several issues with the structure	Confusing structure