**Midterm Exam: Essay Topics**

**On the exam you will have a choice between two essay topics from the four topics that are listed.**

1. Summarize the key points presented in the essay “Gender and Family Values …” by Carol R. Smith. Then provide one example of a film/TV show that, in your opinion, depicts race or gender in a problematic way. Analyze the characters: identify the protagonist and the antagonist as well as other characters in terms of their functions in plot development. Defend your argument that the representation of race or gender is problematic.
2. Analyze the film *Triumph of the Will* by Leni Riefenstahl applying the Formal approach. (Barsam and Monahan define the form as “cinematic language*:* the tools and techniques that filmmakers use to convey meaning and mood to the viewer, including lighting, mis-an-scène, cinematography, performance, editing and sound” (32). Bela Balasz also identifies the elements of the cinematic language: “the changing distance, the detail taken out of the whole, the close-up, the changing g angle, the cutting, and what is the most important : a new psychological effect achieved by the film through the devices just mentioned. This new psychological effect is identification” (Bela Balazs).)
3. Provide your examples of a film or a TV show that depicts a historical event and people and discuss the following:

How accurately the film depict the historical events/people?

What cinematic techniques the directors use to represent the events?

What seems to be accurate in the film? What liberties does the film take with the past? Why?

Is the film primarily entertainment, or is it really trying to work within a historical period?

Do you think that filmmakers have the right to present their own versions of history? Elaborate on your argument.

1. Focus on Henry Jenkins’ text “Professor Jenkins Goes to Washington.” List his major arguments. Also, be prepared to present your own opinion about the topic: Do you think that violence in films, on TV, in video games, or in cartoons promotes violence in real life? Defend your position with specific examples.

**The exam is open-book and you are allowed to have one page (double-sided) of notes about the films you are planning to use as your examples. After completing the exam, you must submit the notes to the instructor.**