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LS 381.01: Lewis & Clark and the West on Film

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Paper Topics

You will be asked to view at least one film from outside class for your paper. You can write on that film alone or in comparison to another film or films, either from class or not. You can take any approach you like--thematic, technical, cultural, historical, ideological, aesthetic, etc., as long as you relate it at least tangentially to our topic. Come see me if you are having trouble narrowing your focus.

These films are only suggestions; if you would like to write on a film or films that are not on the list, just talk to me. In general my only restriction is that you let me know ahead of time so I can have a chance to see a film if I haven’t already. You could also compare a film to something from another medium—a book (e.g. the novel *Little Big Man* compared to the film version), an essay, a historical event, etc.

Papers are due Monday, July 30. Papers will not be accepted after the due date.

The requirements are as follows:

1. Papers should be approximately 6-8 pages long, double-spaced, 10- or 12-point type, 1-inch margins—the standard stuff.

2. You need to have a thesis that you are trying to argue. A topic is your subject; a thesis is what you want to demonstrate to your reader about that topic. See me for guidance.

3. You should back that thesis up with evidence in the form of specific examples from your text or texts. These texts can and should include the film or films, readings from class, and anything else you find relevant. It’s possible but not necessary to do outside research for these papers. What I’m mainly looking for is for you to show a thorough knowledge of materials and issues raised in class. At the same time you have the opportunity to go beyond what we’ve done in class and bring your own tastes and interests to bear here.

4. Naturally you will be expected to use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

5. Try to make every word count and say something worthwhile. This will be much easier if you choose something you feel strongly about, whether in a positive or negative way. That shouldn’t be a problem in this class.

6. If you do research you must document all sources. This includes anything you find on the web. This is what real scholars do, and it makes you look smarter, not dumber, to
acknowledge that every single idea in your paper did not originate with you. Not documenting sources is, of course, called plagiarism.

7. Titles of films or books should be italicized or underlined; titles of essays and other short works go in quotation marks.

Alamo, The
Almost Heroes
Apache
Ballad of Gregorio Cortez
Big Sky, The
Broken Lance
Buffalo Bill & the Indians
Buffalo Soldiers (TV)
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid
Cabeza de Vaca
Comancheros, The
Dance Me Outside
Dances with Wolves
Destry Rides Again
Days of Heaven
Duel in the Sun
El Mariachi
Fistful of Dollars, A
Fort Apache
Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, The
Gunfight at the O.K. Corral
Harvey Girls, The
How the West Was Won
Incident at Oglala: The Leonard Peltier Story
Jeremiah Johnson
Johnny Guitar
Legends of the Fall
Little Big Horn
Lone Star
Lonesome Dove
Magnificent Seven (could compare to Seven Samurai)
Man Called Horse, A
Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, The
McCabe & Mrs. Miller
Missouri Breaks
My Darling Clementine
One-Eyed Jacks
Outlaw Josey Wales, The

Ox-bow Incident, The
Rancho Notorious
Red River
Red Rock West
Rio Bravo
Shane
Shanghai Noon
Stagecoach
Tell them Willie Boy Is Here
Thunderheart
Treasure of the Sierra Madre
Unforgiven