

English 339
Dr. Campbell

Close Analysis Response and Paper 1 Assignment

- February 9: Close Analysis Assignment due in class (typed, double-spaced, and printed)
February 17: Optional workshop for Paper 1; bring typed draft to class for discussion after the film if you wish to participate.
February 24: Paper 1 due in class (paper copy) and by 9 p.m. (electronic copy)

Your first two writing assignments in this class are a short (500-750 words) close reading of an element in a film and an extended analysis paper (5-7 pages long). These writing assignments are linked in that your close reading paper may be integrated into your longer paper, if you wish.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate a theme, motif, or pattern of symbols within a film through a close reading of the techniques of film (shot length and sequences, use of color, use of framing and composition, and so on) or narrative (character development, use of setting, use of symbolism, and so on). Chapters 3 and 4 of Corrigan's *A Short Guide to Writing about Film* provide some good discussion and examples of the kind of writing you'll be doing for these papers, and we will be discussing those chapters in class. Also, the class's analysis of the image from *All that Heaven Allows* on January 26 is a good example of close analysis.

You'll want to see the film(s) you discuss at least once more before you write about them. The films are available on reserve in the Holland-Terrell library; go to <http://griffin.wsu.edu/search/r> and type in engl 339 to see a list of the films. Also, most of these can be ordered through Netflix, and a few are available online; see our course blog for links.

General Requirements:

1. Your paper should be limited enough to provide a specific thesis and a close analysis of the texts; repeating broad, obvious generalities or ideas we have discussed in class will not be sufficient.
2. Content is important, but good organization, clear sentences, and effective paragraphs are also important. Papers should not have comma splices, agreement errors, capitalization or punctuation problems, and other such errors, since their presence will lower your grade substantially. For a list of the most common types of errors found in student papers, go to the Key to Comments page at <http://www.wsu.edu/~campbelld/keyto.htm>. The Writing Center (<http://www.writingprogram.wsu.edu/units/writingcenter/undergradcenter/>) in CUE 403 is just down the hall from our classroom, and the tutors there can help you.
3. Papers must be neatly typed and carefully proofread. Double-space your paper and use a standard 11- or 12-point font. Make sure that your name and the page number are at the top of every page. See http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s4.html for more specific information on formatting your paper.
4. Citations should follow MLA style as outlined in the *MLA Handbook, A Writer's Resource*, or other such guides to MLA style. You can find information about MLA style online by clicking on the link (http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_s2.html) at the top of our course pages. If you use external (secondary) sources in these papers, you need to cite them, although you are not required to use secondary sources for either of these assignments.

Close Analysis of a Film Element

Due date: A printed copy of this paper is due in class on **February 9**.

Write a brief (500-750 words, about 2-3 pages) close reading of an element in a film: a theme, a symbol, a motif, a structural element, a relationship, and so forth. If you have written about one of these features