Assignment: Argumentative Analysis of a Film, Using a Feminist or Marxist Lens (300 points)

Introduction to Assignment: February 25th

Material Comprehension: March 2nd

Material Comprehension: Feminist Lens: March 4th

Spring Break: March 9th and 11th – No Class 😃...But please do work!

Research Workshop: March 16th

Material Comprehension: Marxist Lens: March 23rd

Workshop: March 25th (Questions and Outline Due)

Peer Review: The Week of March 30th and April 1st (Bring 2 copies)

Due: April 6th

Rhetorical Context:

Writing this paper has two ultimate motives: one, to break down and analyze a film, using one of the above listed lenses to develop a viewpoint about that film that may be controversial, or goes against the typical “reading” of the film. You will then present that viewpoint in a style of argument known as argumentative analysis, which has a very carefully crafted and deliberate method of persuasion.

Development of Content:

As you compose your argument, you are attempting to defend your viewpoint about that specific component of the film. This will culminate in your claim. Your claim might look something like this:

- The purpose of this paper is twofold: one, to illustrate how methods of creating film, especially an animated film, can express more than what is on the surface and two, to analyze how the thematic message of the “circle of life” resonates just as deeply as the more subversive ideologies that present themselves in *The Lion King*.
- The class discrepancies illustrated in *Atonement* contribute to the main conflict, thus heightening the romantic entanglement between Robbie and Cecelia.
- *The Purge* shines a spotlight on society’s conditioned patterns of class and race entitlement, revenge eligibility, and the relegation of women to frail archetypes.

With this assignment, assume that your audience is knowledgeable about the film; therefore, it is not necessary to summarize the film beyond the introduction. You may, however, set up particular scenes to illustrate your analysis—this is not considered summary. You need to support your interpretation with specific scenes, details, and cinematic elements from the film. To further amplify
your analysis, consider using character dialogue or film transcript (with directional notes, if accessible to show, rather than tell.

Remember that with a argumentative analysis, you are taking a less aggressive stance, persuading and gently leading the reader to your conclusion. Remember that your audience may be resistance to ideas (“Disney is not racist…that is just how they wrote it back then!”) because largely, in this paper, we are dealing with our audience’s deeply ingrained ideologies, which can be hard to reconcile and to show the viewer a different way to see things. Don’t worry, we will be going over argumentative analysis more in class!

**Putting It All Together:**

At its completion, this paper should be no less than seven (7) **FULL** pages. It should be typed, in MLA format, with proper in text citations and a Works Cited page. Papers that do not meet the minimum page length will be docked anywhere between 5-10 points per page, depending on the severity of the length missing.

This paper also has a research component, and requires a minimum of seven (7) quality sources. Of these seven sources, I expect one to be the primary source of your film. The rest of the sources are secondary sources.

- These sources may vary from books, to database journal articles, to appropriate websites.
- **Four** of these must be scholarly.
- One scholarly source, the theoretical chapters on Marxism and Feminism, will be given to use and must be incorporated into the paper. Hey it’s a freebie!!

We will talk more about researching this paper in class. I also highly recommend that you visit the Library and Writing Center’s Research Clinic, where you can get research and citation help all in one sitting! Don’t be intimidated by the subject matter of this paper—when there is a will, there is a way. I am here to help you through this journey, as are the wonderful librarians and tutors on campus. Use your resources!!!

Lastly, this is a paper where you can be truly creative. I encourage your to follow your interests and write about a movie that you are excited to analyze. This passion surely will reflect in your paper!