

COMN 3316: Television as Communications, as Culture, as Inquiry: Spring Paper Guidelines Intro 1 (given in Jan 06 lecture)

Spring Paper

Introduction From Syllabus:

“Critical Paper: Students will be asked to demonstrate fluency with the course interests through a critical paper. This paper will be focused on choice of critical essay topics as given by the instructor. In investigating and writing about their chosen topic students must address at least one theorist mentioned in our class. They must also address issues of cultural reproduction and technology; and must demonstrate familiarity with Canadian Television issues as well as with our readings. Details on this assignment will be given in our course startup and in detail as assignment approaches. Paper topic choices must be discussed with and approved by T.A.”

Basic Paper Requirements

A. Paper production details:

Critical Paper will be 8 to 10 pages¹ in length (not including bibliography), using citing style decided by TA. Font 12 pt. 1.5 spacing.

Critical Paper will use and reference at least four scholarly resources: at least one scholarly resource must be a book, at least one scholarly resource must be a journal article.,at least two scholarly resource will be from/or on television studies. The text books may be used but will not count as part of this resource requirement. The goal is for students to find new resources.Students are also encouraged but not required to use resources from media studies, or cultural studies. Websites will not count as a scholarly resource unless the can be demonstrated to meet the criteria of “scholarly”

Paper is due on March 09, 2012.

Late penalties will accrue to papers handed in after this date.

Papers should be handed in to T.A. in both digital and paper format

Papers should be handed in to T.A in fashion T.A designates

Paper must succeed in maintaining academic integrity

¹ Students may apply to TA to do longer paper but must have well worked through reason for doing so, many long papers are simply shorter papers in need of editing.

B. Paper topic basic requirements:

Paper must address or use at least one theorist covered in the course (either spring or fall term)

The spring term lectures will focus on cultural reproduction, cultural reproduction must be used somehow in the paper. This will form the basic critical examination required in the paper.

The spring term will consider technology as a means of analyzing television. The paper must include some form of analysis connected to technology

Paper must demonstrate awareness of and connection to Canadian Television Studies

Additional Paper Topic Guidelines:

A. Focus Topic Choices: Along with the above requirements students will pick a focus for their paper:

Focus choices are

A show/or ad campaign

A genre

A television studies or media theorist

A technology²

An issue

A channel

A director or producer or writer or actor (or all the above) who has influenced television over at least 10 years

An event and its coverage

A binary relevant to both television studies and cultural reproduction

B. "Critical" (for this assignment)

Lens: Along with analyzing their topic choice from the angle of cultural reproduction, student will need to employ one more critical lens. These lenses will be reviewed in depth on Jan 13 lecture.

² This one is tricky, as if you pick a television technology you must be ready to show its cultural reproduction effects - so just righting about a technology will not be enough

Writing style: This paper is a critical paper written in a third person voice and functions within more standard critical sphere of television studies. Most of our readings to date have been in this vein.

In this standard sphere a tension is maintained where a writer unpacks and analyzes its topic. This is done in part by looking closely at the topic by gathering info about it, studying it (and its relationship to culture, etc.) and by reading other critical analysis. The writer must then synthesize this broad set of information into an essay that explores the topic bringing to bear key observations from other critical analysis - while also interrogating the topic by maintain a line of evaluate and analysis that is unique to the writer.

Critical analysis maintains its tension by using something (you will cultural reproduction + one other lens) that allows the writer to enter into the subject and appreciate it - but also critique it from an outer stance.

This is in contrast to the last assignment which though critical was more reflective, exploratory and observationally oriented, and was constructed after a series of experiential and exploratory data gathering experiences that were autobiographically oriented.

This spring paper synthesizes analysis from others (giving them due credit) bringing them together into some unique thesis.

More will be detailed on this in the Jan 13 lecture