

## EUROP 424 Research Paper

### Due: December 9<sup>th</sup> via turnitin

**Topics:** Please choose one of the following topics. You may choose your own topic if you prefer, but *you must have this topic approved by me before beginning your essay.*

- **Choose two films that we have watched in class. Compare and contrast the ways in which they engage with the theme of "boundaries and borders."**
- **Choose one film we have watched in class and provide an in-depth examination of the ways in which the film portrays "boundaries and borders." Your paper should provide specific *mise en scene* analysis, a discussion of genre and style as well as a general assessment of the way "boundaries and borders" fits into the broader narrative of the film.**
- **Utilizing Bordwell's guidelines for deciphering the "meaning" of a film, choose one film to dissect and analyze for its "meaning." Your paper will need to include a breakdown of the film for its Referential, Explicit, Implicit and Symptomatic meaning (for definitions of these terms see Bordwell 58-59)**

#### Format

- Essay must have a title
- Essay *does not* need a cover page
- Length: 5-6 pages (please number pages)
- Font: 12pt Times New Roman, double spaced
- Margins: 1 inch on all sides
- All citations must be in MLA format
- For more information, see the following video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation\\_id=annotation\\_450443&feature=iv&src\\_vid=1PRb6557EmI&v=3Qf8AfiCcD4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_450443&feature=iv&src_vid=1PRb6557EmI&v=3Qf8AfiCcD4)
- MLA citation: <http://library.sdsu.edu/guides/sub2.php?id=258&pg=234>

#### Sources:

- You must use **at least 3** sources in your paper. One may be from an assigned reading in class. The other three must be from sources other than our syllabus.

- NOTE: **Wikipedia is not an acceptable source** to use in your essay. If you choose to use Wikipedia, you must properly cite it as a source, but it *will not* count as one of your 3 academic sources. For information on why Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for college-level academic work, please see this page on Wikipedia's own website:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia\\_is\\_not\\_an\\_acceptable\\_citation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wikipedia_is_not_an_acceptable_citation)

**How to cite using MLA format:**

1. book: Author. *Title*. City: Publisher, Year.
2. book chapter: Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Collection*. Ed. Editor's name(s). Place of publication: Publisher, year of publication. Pages.
3. journal article: Author. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal* Volume (Year): pages.

See also: <http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/styles/cite.shtml>

**How to work with sources:**

- In first mention of author, use first+last name. After that, use only last name of author.
- incorporate **information** that the author supplies (for example: Author X shows that newspaper sales have decreased by 10% over the last few years.)
- engage with an author's **thesis** or **argument** (for example: Author X argues .... However, it is important to also consider ...)

**Guidelines for an "A" Essay**

- Compelling question/thesis & clear agenda/organization ("In this paper, I will argue that...")
- Your essay should have an introduction (one or two paragraphs), which lays out the problem you intend to tackle, the central question you will answer, and the goals you seek to achieve with your essay.
- Structure and coherence: The main body of your essay should be an analysis: You should examine materials that will allow you to answer the central question you presented in the introduction. Avoid tangents and non-essential statements.
- Critical engagement with the research literature: Make clear how your own analysis fits in with the existing research literature. See also "How to work with sources" above.
- Conclusion – Summarize the results of your analysis at the end of the essay. The concluding paragraph(s) should not contain new information. Make sure you answer the question you introduced in the introduction.

**Grading Criteria:**

- quality of analysis
- persuasiveness of your arguments
- structure and coherence of the essay (introduction, analysis, conclusion)
- critical engagement with research literature

## Step-by-Step Guide

Step 1: Brainstorm. Jot down ideas on the topic.

Step 2: Read the topic carefully. Match your ideas from the brainstorming with the subquestions of the topic. Organize your ideas.

Step 3: Read the research literature. Mark or take notes on aspects that relate to your own ideas.

Step 4: Start to prepare organized notes. Make sure to include an introduction and a conclusion.

Step 5: Begin writing your essay. Start with the analysis. Finalize introduction and conclusion after you have completed the analysis.

Step 6: Edit your essay after it is complete. Make sure to eliminate errors and inconsistencies.

### **Note on Academic Integrity:**

College of Arts and Letters expects the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical performance from students. It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism. ***All incidents of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Judicial Procedures Office as required by CSU Policy.***

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

for written work, copy down or cut anything from a book, article or website and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number  
for written work, summarize / paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the full reference for the source (including page number in the humanities)

for an oral presentation, copy down or cut anything from a book, article, or website and present it orally as if it were your own words. You must summarize and paraphrase in your own words, and bring a list of references in case the professor asks to see it  
use visuals or graphs you got from a book, article, or website without providing the full reference for the picture or table  
recycle a paper you wrote for another class  
turn in the same (or a very similar paper) for two classes  
purchase or otherwise obtain a paper and turn it in as your own work  
copy off of a classmate  
use technology or smuggle in documents to obtain or check information in an exam situation

In a research paper, it is always better to include too many references than not enough. When in doubt, always err on the side of caution. If you have too many references it might make your professor smile; if you don't have enough you might be suspected of plagiarism.

If you have any question or uncertainty about what is or is not cheating, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor.

#### **Consequences of cheating and plagiarism:**

***SDSU instructors are mandated to report all instances of cheating and plagiarism to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibility.*** Consequences are at the instructor's and the Center for Student Rights and Responsibility's discretion. They may include any of the following:

failing the assignment  
failing the class

warning  
probation

suspension  
expulsion

For more detailed information, read the chapter on plagiarism in the [MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers](#) (6<sup>th</sup> edition, 2003); visit the following website <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml> and talk to your professors before turning in your paper or doing your oral presentation.

The University of Indiana also has very helpful writing hints for students, including some on how to cite sources. Please visit <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets.shtml> for more information.