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Video Essay

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Recommended Citation

FMST 46/ENG 90: Queer Media

Video Essay Guidelines

Media scholarship is increasingly produced using media tools. This assignment asks you to work in pairs to produce a critical argument about the material from one of your facilitation weeks using the video essay format. The aim is to bring critical questions in queer media studies to bear on the media text screened for class (or a closely related, approved, text) in a way that would interest and inform someone who did not take the class. The video should be no more than **5 minutes** long.

Examples of videographic film criticism can be found in the online journals [In]Transition and at Audiovisualcy, a Vimeo channel devoted to the form. I'll post some especially useful links to the work of editor/curator Catherine Grant, queer filmmaker Mark Rappaport, and video essay maestro Kevin B. Lee

You will collaborate on a script or plan for combining images captured from your film with text, sound, annotation, or supplemental images. You do not have to use continuous voiceover; side-by-side comparisons or quotations from readings can be used as counterpoint to onscreen images. **Please submit a plan by 11/5 at noon.**

If you manipulate image and sound through editing, masking or annotating, make sure such tools are used in the service of your argument. For a good basic guide, see: "How-to Video Essays" on the website The Audiovisual Essay.

You will be evaluated on the criteria on the Video Essay Rubric provided. Both partners should participate in technical production. Your video essay should include credits and citations and be accompanied by short (1-2 page) reflection papers from each of you on the critical ideas behind your piece and the creative and collaborative process of completing the assignment.

You will be taught the screen recording and video editing program Camtasia to produce your work. You may use Premiere only if both of you are proficient. Camtasia is available on the computers in the Language Center, 326 Kohlberg Hall. Michael Jones and John Word are available to assist you from 9-5 weekdays; the LRC is open 9am-10pm M-Th. There is also a useful Camtasia Lynda tutorial. In most cases, you will be provided access to digital copies of the films, but if you are working with DVDs or online material ask for the handout on capturing video.

Video essays should be exported to mp4 and uploaded to the link on Moodle by 11/19. Reflection papers should be uploaded to the assignment link.

For more on video essays, see [In]Transition's excellent resource page and Audiovisualcy's Facebook page.