**COM 380 Film Analysis Guidelines and Rubric**

**Due Date: Monday, December 3rd at 11:59pm (During Module 5)**

During the second half of the semester students will be required to write one film analysis paper (1000 words, double-spaced). This assignment will require students to watch a film of their choosing that examines family dynamics in some way. Students will then write a 1000 word double-spaced essay (about 3-4 pages) that **a)** *briefly* introduces the family from the film to the reader (what film did you use, who are they, how many family members are there, general descriptive characteristics of the family), **b)** identifies at least **4 course concepts** from course readings any chapter can be useful, but those from chapters 5-9 might be most easy to identify within the movie that they saw occur within the family in question (for example, did you notice any family rituals, how did family members seem to communicate during conflict, how did they react to stressful situations, etc.), and **c)** utilizes relevant information from the course to explain *how* the family processes mentioned in part B influenced the relationships between family members and *why* you think this was the case (for example, if you saw family members become defensive during conflict and it seemed to escalate the conflict you would state that defensiveness escalated the conflict and then use your knowledge from course readings to explain why becoming defensive would cause conflict escalation).

Papers should include the following elements:

An introductory paragraph that explains what film the student chose to watch, why they chose to watch that particular film, and overall what general patterns of behavior they saw occurring within the film (just a short summary, not an in-depth description. The in-depth description comes later).

A brief description of the family in the film (who is the family, how many family members are there, general descriptive characteristics of the family such as ages, biological sex, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status (if known), do they seem close to one another, do they interact often, etc). This should provide the instructor with enough background/context to make sure the student is applying course concepts appropriately.

A few paragraphs that identify four course concepts that we have learned about from course readings (any chapter can be useful, but those from chapters 5-9 might be most easy to identify within the movie) that relate to the family/film in question and help explain how the family processes seen in the film influenced the family, and why those processes influenced the family in that way. See description above for some examples of topics to discuss.

A conclusion paragraph that explains, overall, what the student has learned about the family in the film through this process.

Papers should be written in a formal style, however first person is allowed. Papers should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font. No cover page or references page is necessary. All papers should be carefully edited and free of spelling/grammatical errors.

**Total Points: 75**

**A rubric is provided on the next page**

**Rubric:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Poor** | **Good** | **Superb** |
| **Intro paragraph** | **1** | **3** | **5** |
| **Description of the family** | **5** | **7** | **10** |
| **Relating to four course concepts** | **20** | **30** | **40** |
| **Conclusion paragraph** | **1** | **3** | **5** |
| **Overall writing quality** | **5** | **10** | **15** |

**Total: 75**