

Response Essay

Assignment/Objective

You will write on any one of the five films eligible for this assignment: *Late Spring*, *The Circle*, *L'Age d'or*, *Susana*, and *Vidas Secas*. Since you have a choice, try to pick one that speaks to you and that you feel interested in responding to, both personally and analytically.

Even though this is a response essay, it should not be merely a catalog of your responses to the film. You also need to analyze the movie in light of the reading(s) assigned for it. What I'd like to see you do is bounce your own ideas off of the reading(s) in response to both texts. Ultimately your objective is to increase your understanding of the film through the lenses of both the reading and your own responses.

Let me give you an example. Gordon is the main author we're reading for *Bicycle Thieves* and Italian Neorealism. In his writing he addresses the impact of World War II on Italy, the film industry, and the film in question. You might be intrigued by the haunting presence of the war in *Bicycle Thieves*; in this case, you could compare your responses to Gordon's and thereby analyze both the reading and the film in this context.

Note that if you leave this assignment to the final film (*Vidas Secas*), you would have no choice but to write on it. Once you have written one of these response essays, on one film, you are done with this assignment. Finally, I'm making these due the week after each screening, when we'll be discussing the film in question, so that you may share with the class your responses and analyses.

Formal Requirements:

Due: The due date is determined by which film you write on and listed accordingly on the green sheet. You may choose to write on any one of the five films, but you must turn in the assignment on the corresponding due date. *Once a due date passes, you may not write on that film.*

Formatting: Two (2) single-sided, double-spaced pages; 1" margins, 12-point font, stapled, and with your name on the first page.
Hardcopy only – do not email essay, unless it is late.

Citation: None needed for this assignment.