

FILM REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT

In this course, you will write five brief reflection pieces that demonstrate critical analysis of the films we screen in class. The goal is to think critically about how the films in each thematic segment of our course perpetuate and/or challenge Hollywood's stereotypes of Chicana/os. You can focus on a particular scene or character from one of the films, a quote from the readings that relates to something in the film, and/or raise and explore an interesting question. Use the setting (time, place, social and historical context), story (plot, point of view), major characters and actors (gender, ethnicity, class, morality, roles, stereotype), and film elements (cinematography, editing, sound, mise-en-scene) to inform your critique. You must draw from (quote and cite) at least one of the accompany readings in each segment into your analysis. Each reflection must reach a minimum of 500 words.

I will suggest topics for each reflection, though you are welcome to pursue your own topic from Reflection II onwards. However, for Reflection I, you should answer the following question:

Both La Bamba and Stand and Deliver represent a high point for Chicana/os in mainstream Hollywood films of the 1980s. Select one of these two films for the focus of your reflection. Does it truly manage to escape or subvert the longstanding Latina/o stereotypes you learned about in The Bronze Screen, Charles Ramirez Berg's "A Crash Course" essay, and the Latino Media Gap report? If so, then how? If not, then why not?

Grading will be based on the following: (1) depth and quality of reflection on the film(s); (2) incorporation of course discussions and readings; and (3) strength of writing (grammar and style) and length of entries.

Due dates and films for each reflection:

- September 28 Reflection I: La Bamba **or** Stand and Deliver
- October 26 Reflection II: Boulevard Nights and/or Mi Vida Loca
 Reflection III: Bread and Roses and/or Cesar Chavez
- November 23: Reflection IV: Real Women Have Curves and/or A Better Life
 Reflection V: Quinceañera and/or Mosquita y Mari

Other Essential Information

- 2 – 3 pages in length (a minimum of 500 words)
- Each reflection is 10% of overall grade
- Your work must be
 - Formatted with 1" margins all around
 - Double-spaced
 - Printed in 12-point Times New Roman
 - Numbered on all pages
 - Stapled before you turn it in
 - Spell-checked, carefully edited and proof-read
 - Follow MLA formatting (for guidelines, see link to Purdue's Online Writing Lab on our course website)