

FINAL ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Over the course of MAS 170 this semester, you not only have learned about longstanding Hollywood stereotypes of Chicana/os and Latina/os, but also have reflected on the genres and issues of gangxpolitation; labor struggles; generational differences; love and desire; and the underdog triumphs of Chicana/os in American society. We have covered a lot of ground together, yet a sixteen-week semester can barely begin to scratch the surface of stories that remain to be told about our histories and communities.

Your role in this final essay is to explore the question: **If you were to create a Chicana/o film, what would it be about, and why?**

To answer that question, you should begin by reflecting on the films we watched together this semester. Ask yourself:

- What characters, settings, and themes that interested you most, and why?
- What stereotypes and settings frustrate or disappoint you the most, and why?
- What kinds of stories about Chicana/os do you think Hollywood should tell, and why?
- In what ways would your imagined film be in dialog with (i.e. what traits would it share with) the films we saw in MAS 170? How would it be different from them?
- What readings this semester helped you “read” more into films and/or understand the cultural work that they do?

Please note: the goal is not to answer *all* of the questions above in your essay. Instead, use your responses to the questions as a starting point for figuring out what direction you want to take this assignment.

Grading will be based on the following: (1) how vividly you describe your envisioned film; (2) how well you incorporate our class discussions and readings; and (3) the depth of your analysis and description in your response.

Other Essential Information

- Due date: December 11 (turn in by 5:45pm at my office)
- 5 – 6 pages in length
- 15% 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)