English 117B Spring 2016 **Paper #2 Film Club Project**

**Overview:** Working with two or three of your classmates, you will make a presentation about a film (or a work of literature) that will expand our understanding of global cultures and our theme of journeys. It might be a work that relates to something on the syllabus, or it might break new ground. Your goal is to help illuminate several aspects of the work for the class, and to stimulate class discussion.

* Duration: You will have about 5 minutes per student. This will include what the student says and whatever film clip might be included in the presentation.
* Planning: Groups will meet with the professor before presenting to discuss ideas.
* Written portion: You will turn in a **group topic proposal** before the presentation and an ***individually written* report** of your portion of the presentation (1000 words—about 3 pages) on the day presentations begin.
* Feedback: The professor and the class will respond to and evaluate your presentation.
* **Due dates:** topic proposal **Fri 4/8** written portion of the presentation: **Fri 5/13**

**Film Presentation**: For your chosen film, from an approved list, your group collectively will do the following tasks in any order that works best for your presentation. Your goal is to give us new, interesting insights into the book or film. **Note**: you can’t use the same film for this project that any of your group members used in your research paper. Ideally, it should be a film none of you have watched yet. Just to be extra clear: each student chooses ONE of the tasks below. All of the groups must cover the first 3 tasks, and groups with more than 3 members can choose among the other two.

1. Background on the writer and/or the director: Summarize key biographical details that will help us understand where this film came from and how it fits in with the filmmaker’s other work. Find interviews (in print, on You Tube, etc.) and cull interesting quotes and other information to share. Feel free to include key quotes and/or excerpts of video clips of interviews or talks. Don’t let the clips take over your presentation, though. If you are discussing a writer we’ve been working with, avoid repeating information already given in class.

2. Discuss how a key theme or conflict develops in the work and explain why it matters, both to the writer and to us now. Discuss how the life experiences of the characters tell us something significant about the human experience. Consider how they face the challenges in their lives in relation to the power dynamics in their societies and their families. Consider how their identity and their choices are affected by their race, class, gender, religion, sexuality, region of origin, and the social norms of their communities. Relates your work to the issues and themes we have been discussing as a class, if at all possible.

3. Critical Reception/evaluation: Compile a report of what critics said about the film, looking as widely as you can to get a variety of opinions, particularly from different countries, if the film was released in more than one. Focus on professional critics, but you can include fan comments, as well. Also discuss any awards it won or was nominated for. Finally, give us the group’s reaction the film.

4. Adaptation: If this film is adapted from another kind of work, or if there are other film or TV versions, discuss them. How do the changes in emphasis, casting, plot, characterization, or anything else alter the meaning of the film? What do the changes say about changing attitudes and/or the different societies they were written for? For example: Bernard Shaw’s play *Pygmalion*, which was itself a very loose adaptation of a story from Ovid’s *Metamorphosis*, was filmed within his own lifetime (from his own screenplay) and has since then been adapted many times and by several countries over the last 100 years since its debut. Each adaptation has had different things to say about class, gender, and linguistic discrimination.

5. Cinematic Analysis: If you have some background in film studies, this is the task for you. Using clips from the film to illustrate your points, discuss some of the film’s formal elements, whichever ones are worth discussing in this particular film. You can be guided in this at least partly by what the professional critics cite as interesting or effective in this particular film, and maybe by what awards it won. Discuss how the cinematic elements express meaning.

Note: *This assignment has been adopted and adapted, with gratitude, from one used by other professors teaching this class, including Persis Karim and Kate Evans.*

**Suggested Film List**

Note: I have chosen films that feature journeys, in keeping with our theme, and I’ve avoided American films because this class is supposed to feature global films. In rare circumstances I will accept a film that’s not on this list, but you will have to talk me into it, preferably *before* the topic proposal due date. Below I have just the titles, but on the course website I have more information about each one.

* [Brooklyn](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Brooklyn/80037688?strkid=31398793_0_0&strackid=5283fe1ee459c52e_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [My Boy Jack](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Masterpiece-Classic-My-Boy-Jack/70091339?strkid=1634014315_1_0&strackid=6dbb44e603b32eec_1_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Not One Less](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Not-One-Less/60000446?strkid=50354431_0_0&strackid=1c6acf190894be26_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Persepolis](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Persepolis/70071605?authURL=1458256431735.jIpMQBfMzjMIEBUTeNJWodW0iCw%3D)
* Tracks
* [King of Masks](http://dvd.netflix.com/Search?oq=&ac_posn=&search_submit=&v1=king+of+masks)
* [The Spanish Apartment](http://dvd.netflix.com/Search?v1=L'Auberge%20Espagnole&oq=l'auberg&ac_posn=1&fcld=false)
* [The Mission](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/The-Mission/60027473?strkid=2121158965_0_0&strackid=79c23fc28903e125_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Out of Africa](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Out-of-Africa/60000019?strkid=391238669_0_0&strackid=3d7b0863ffd43307_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Sin Nombre](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Sin-Nombre/70112457?strkid=1028823238_0_0&strackid=582805105210cc5f_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Maria Full of Grace](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Maria-Full-of-Grace/60034788?strkid=564100947_0_0&strackid=56ca0df96175135c_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [The New World](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/The-New-World/70021657?strkid=285254815_0_0&strackid=567af10430a11f9b_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Crouching-Tiger-Hidden-Dragon/60002907)

* [MirrorMask](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/MirrorMask/70020736?strkid=1856149184_0_0&strackid=3841ad217705e38c_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Death of a Superhero](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1384927/)
* [Princess Mononoke](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Princess-Mononoke/28630857?strkid=891800719_0_0&strackid=fd8e748e7bc1cbc_0_srl&trkid=222336)
* [Song of the Sea](http://dvd.netflix.com/Movie/Song-of-the-Sea/80015342?strkid=292800815_0_0&strackid=4643dd4eac386b2a_0_srl&trkid=222336)