ANALYSIS ESSAY GUIDELINES

In this Analysis Essay you will be projecting your critical reading/thinking skills by analyzing texts and visuals.

In this Essay, you will be using a minimum of 2 or 3 works/sources (which will be your Primary Sources) to decode the embedded meanings through critical thinking and your knowledge of theories.

Here are the PRIMARY SOURCES of different genres:
Choose any two that we considered in class
1. a text: a poem, article, or a short story (* any text/prose we considered for this course)
2. a visual: an image, an artwork, or a movie, or a song, a music-video that we considered
3. Optional: and your choice of any text or a visual

Thus, you will be writing an analysis paper comparing those 3 works/sources (that you chose to analyze) in terms of 2 or 3 themes/theories.
Think as 3/2 ratio (3 sources analyzed in terms of 2 themes) OR 2/3 ratio (2 sources X 3 themes)

Here are some themes to choose from: (a choice of any 2). You may come-up with your own theme(s) relating to our course.

- Irony: how a person, situation, statement, or circumstance is not as expected or would actually seem
  Irony as a literary device is used to bring awareness to a social problem, and to ridicule a thought or an event with witicism or sarcasm not only to criticize but to promote improvement
- Appropriation: repetition of certain elements, scenes, characters in the same or in another work
- Altruism and/or Narcissism
- Semiotics/Symbolic meaning/symbolism (Saussure’s and Pierce’s reading)
- The new self/ the birth of a new self or a change (Lacan’s reading)
  Self-identification through the other (other character, other name, memory)
  Longing for self-wholeness
  Ego/ Alter ego
- The stages of the psychic apparatus/mind (id, ego, and superego) (Freud’s reading)
- Uncanny/ displacement/ change
  Castration (loss)/ substitution
  Loss and Gain
  Memory/dream (also “American Dream Ideology” of anyone can be successful)
  Fear and Desire / obsession
- Ideologies: Power and control (Marx’s reading)
  Power/Control (power gained through certain beliefs/traditions, class/gender belonging, or repression/violence, or because of knowledge/skill)
  ISA/RSA (control via ideologies and repression) (Althusser’s reading)
  Interpellation 1 (reproduction/rebirth/ the new: Transgression from OLD to the NEW (usually with a helper, a medium)
  Interpellation 2 (Self/Other: seeing oneself in the other, a medium through which people understand or see their own “self” and their place within a given society)
- Gender expectations in Patriarchal society and/or from Feminist perspectives
- Use of Rhetorical Appeals (Ethos, Pathos, Logos)
- etc. (your choice of a theme referring to what we discussed in this course)
* Please consider some possible examples of final analysis prompts in the very end of this document.

**The Analysis Essay:**

- Should have an academic essay **structure**: introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion
- Should be **3.5 - 5.5 pages typed/ double spaced**/ Times New Roman 12 font

A suggestion is to start with:
- **Introduction**: a general introduction of the importance of critical theories in the interpretation of literary works, introduction of the 3 sources with a very brief summary explaining the plot of the works, and a thesis that names the themes and how they are embedded in these sources/texts.
- **Body Paragraphs**: analyze each of the 3 sources in terms of the selected 2 theme and (optional) in a paragraph/last body paragraph compare and reemphasize the similarities and differences of how these 2 themes pertain to these literary works.

- Should be analyzing **3 works/genres analyzed in terms of 2 themes** / or 2 works in 3 themes
- Should refer to at least one of the critical theories we discussed in this course and should mention at least one theorists
- Should refer to the **Primary Sources/ the 3 works you selected**: It should have supporting information, quotes, examples/references from the sources considered for the analysis.
- Should also have **at least 2 (max 4) Secondary Sources researched** to support your claims

The secondary sources may include:

- **Credible texts / electronic sources** such as an article, book, journal, scholar essay, encyclopedia, etc.  (At least 2 credible sources)
  * Use Google Scholar, or Academic databases of LAVC.
- **Our course materials** (example Theory Handouts, PowerPoints, lecture notes)
  * Please note that our course handouts will **not** be considered as the use of the secondary credible source.
  * but no more than 1 website information searched via regular search engines
- **It should use MLA format** for in-text citations and a Works Cited page

* For questions, advice, help please email me or set an appointment for office visit in advance. Also, consider the LAVC Writing Center hours to see a tutor in case you may need some guidance.
SOME EXAMPLES OF FINAL ANALYSIS PROMPTS:
You can choose any of these examples or come up with your own selection:

Critical Analysis of the song “Rise Like a Phoenix,” “The Story of an Hour,” and the movie Hunger Games in terms of the gender roles (or expectations) and interpellation/a new start.

Critical Analysis of the movie Trance and the short story “Two Kinds” in terms of the self-establishment, the use of symbolism, and commodification of human values.

Grading Rubric
Analysis Essay is 45 points

- Academic structure/Paragraph Organization and balance 5p
- Length (3-4.5 pages) 1p
- 3 X 2 ratio (Primary sources X Themes) 2p
- Thesis Statement (1 or 2 sentences) 5p
- Introducing the primary sources (brief summary) 5p
- Mentioning at least 1 theorist 2p
- Application of themes: Referring to Primary sources (ref. or quote) 5p
- A min of 2 Credible Secondary sources 5p
- MLA Format and In-text citation 5p
- Works Cited page 5p
- Mechanics 5p

The typed ready DRAFT is due: on Wednesday, 12/6 for in-class peer-review
You will turn-in the revised, typed literary analysis essay on the last day of class on Monday, 12/11.