

ENGLISH 345

GROUP PROJECT

FILM, TEXT, AND CULTURE

REQUIREMENTS: three pages; single-spaced; Microsoft Word document.

SUBMISSION: directly to the instructor through email.

This group project combine your study of genre and Washington, DC as a cinematic site and theme. It gives you an opportunity of selecting your own film. In your assigned groups, you will complete a three-page (single-spaced) group document that does the following (in order):

Page 1: (COGNITIVE). An assessment of the genre to which your film belongs. Why does it belong to that genre? What are the genre staples and how does it match up with those (give details of content and technique in your film)? What other genres live inside this film and why do you think that the film does not belong to that other genre? Explain your cognitive reasoning.

Page 2: (COMMUNAL). What social ritual does the genre serve? Why would someone in the historical context of your film want to see this particular release? What kind of real-world problems does it resolve up on the screen? How would the public feel coming into—and leaving—the movie theater? Consider the details of the plot, and the techniques to explain why this film emerged as it did—in other words, the communal cultural logic that led to its existence.

Page 3: (COMMERCIAL). What were other similar films that came out during this time? Is your film part of a commercial cycle of likeminded films? What were they? This will require that you watch or re-watch a few more of these to get a better grasp of the genre cycle. Here you should include links to other movies (or at least online trailers, posters, etc.) to make the case for the film's commercial aspects. Perhaps there a prior film made money and led to this one, etc.

You will notice that I have structured the assignment as I do my own emails. One way to go about this project is to study what I have done in my weekly communications. **\*You must tell me the name of your chosen film by March 18.** I will need to watch/re-watch it myself. If you cannot decide, write me. I have loads of suggestions for DC-themed movies in many genres!

Good luck!