

English 345: Film, Text, and Culture

Midterm Assignment

Requirement: 2 pages, double spaced, 12-point font

Due: Thursday, 2/25 by 12 pm

After reading my email (2/23) on the “black comedy” genre, choose one scene from Stanley Kubrick’s *Dr. Strangelove* (1964) and discuss how it illustrates one or more of the points that I make under “Cognitive,” “Communal,” and/or “Commercial.” You are free to choose on your own, and are encouraged to go beyond my email to your own sense of where the genre comes from, or how the film connects to the genre.

Be precise when analyzing the scene. Discuss it in terms of plot (what is happening during this section of the story), but also how Kubrick uses cinema tools to create the scene. It helps if you have had “Introduction to Cinema Studies” with me, but I know not everyone has. That is okay. Try to do your best in describing mise-en-scene (lighting, costume, setting, acting), cinematography (what the camera is doing), editing (how is the scene assembled through a series of “shots”), and sound.

What I am looking for is an intelligent and informed two-page paper along the lines of what we have been doing in the course blog thus far.

Do not waste time at the beginning discussing the genre. Your principal task is to relate my email outline on “black comedy” to one key scene.

Please edit your papers, and consider consulting the Writing Center.

The grading criteria for this assignment is on the course syllabus!

Good luck!

