

### **Film Series Assignment Option**

- **12 Angry Men** [PN1993.15 .A114 1997]. Following the closing arguments in a murder trial, the 12 members of the jury must deliberate, with a guilty verdict meaning death for the accused, an inner-city teen. As the dozen men try to reach a unanimous decision while sequestered in a room, one juror (Henry Fonda) casts considerable doubt on elements of the case. Personal issues soon rise to the surface, and conflict threatens to derail the delicate process that will decide one boy's fate.
- **28-Up** [BF 713 U6 2004] "The Up series of documentary films follows the lives of ten males and four females in England beginning in 1964, when they were seven years old. Here they are interviewed at age 28."
- **American Beauty** [PN1993.15 .A483 1999] "...a gainfully employed suburban husband and father. Fed up with his boring, stagnant existence, he quits his job and decides to reinvent himself as a pot-smoking, responsibility-shirking teenager. What follows is at once cynical, hysterical, and, eventually, tragically uplifting."
- **Anne Frank Remembered** [DS135.N6 F73 1995] Documentary film: "the autobiography of Miep Gies, the woman who helped the Frank family survive during their two years in hiding. Her book is a primary source or firsthand account of the persecution of Jewish people in Nazi-occupied Holland during the second world war. It is also the first-hand account of the hiding of Jews such as the Frank family, the Van Daan family, and Dr. Albert Dussel during this time"
- **Avalon** [Pn 1993.15 A945 1990]. "...follows the immigrant Krichinsky clan as they settle in Baltimore during the early 20th century. While Sam Krichinsky establishes roots in the city and finds a wife, his ambitious son, who changes his last name to Kaye, tries to live the American Dream by opening an appliance store, revealing cultural and generational gaps."
- **Black Panther** [PN1993.14 .B5607 2018] "After the death of his father, T'Challa returns home to the African nation of Wakanda to take his rightful place as king. When a powerful enemy suddenly reappears, T'Challa's mettle as king -- and as Black Panther -- gets tested when he's drawn into a conflict that puts the fate of Wakanda and the entire world at risk. Faced with treachery and danger, the young king must rally his allies and release the full power of Black Panther to defeat his foes and secure the safety of his people."
- **Blow-up** [Pn 1993.15 B5765 1966] "Thomas Davis is a London photographer who spends his time photographing fashion models. But one day he thinks he may have photographed something far more sinister: a murder. After taking pictures in the park, Thomas is horrified to find an ambiguous image lurking on the edge of the frame, which could be a shadow, but looks like a gun. The only thing clear is that the woman in the photo has appeared at his studio -- and wants the pictures he took."
- **Blue Velvet** [Pn 1993.15 B59 1986] "College student Jeffrey Beaumont returns home after his father has a stroke. When he discovers a severed ear in an abandoned field, Beaumont teams up with detective's daughter Sandy Williams to solve the mystery. They believe beautiful lounge singer Dorothy Vallens may be connected with the case, and Beaumont finds himself becoming drawn into her dark, twisted world, where he encounters sexually depraved psychopath Frank Booth."
- **Diner** [Pn 1993.15 D57 1982] "Billy returns home to Baltimore to serve as the best man at his upcoming wedding of his childhood buddy Eddie. In the meantime, he and Eddie get together with their friends at the local diner, where they trade stories about their lives. All they really want to do is go back to being the carefree boys they once were, but they know it cannot be. Their funny and at times revealing exchanges help each other face the mounting responsibility of adulthood."
- **Do The Right Thing** [Pn 1993.15 D628 1989] "Salvatore "Sal" Fragione is the Italian owner of a pizzeria in Brooklyn. A neighborhood local, Buggin' Out, becomes upset when he sees that the pizzeria's Wall of Fame exhibits only Italian actors. Buggin' Out believes a pizzeria in a black neighborhood should showcase black actors, but Sal disagrees. The wall becomes a symbol of racism and hate to Buggin' Out and to other people in the neighborhood, and tensions rise."

- **Memento** [PN1993.15 .M45 2000] “Leonard is tracking down the man who raped and murdered his wife. The difficulty, however, of locating his wife's killer is compounded by the fact that he suffers from a rare, untreatable form of memory loss. Although he can recall details of life before his accident, Leonard cannot remember what happened fifteen minutes ago, where he's going, or why.”
- **Mulholland Drive** [Pn 1993.15 M85 2001] “A dark-haired woman is left amnesiac after a car crash. She wanders the streets of Los Angeles in a daze before taking refuge in an apartment. There she is discovered by Betty, a wholesome Midwestern blonde who has come to the City of Angels seeking fame as an actress. Together, the two attempt to solve the mystery of Rita's true identity. The story is set in a dream-like Los Angeles, spoilt neither by traffic jams nor smog.”
- **Paris Is Burning** [Pn 1993.15 P35 1991] “This documentary focuses on drag queens living in New York City and their "house" culture, which provides a sense of community and support for the flamboyant and often socially shunned performers. Groups from each house compete in elaborate balls that take cues from the world of fashion. Also touching on issues of racism and poverty, the film features interviews with a number of renowned drag queens, including Willi Ninja, Pepper LaBeija and Dorian Corey.”
- **Pulp Fiction** [PN1993.15 .P79 1994] “Vincent Vega and Jules Winnfield are hitmen with a penchant for philosophical discussions. In this ultra-hip, multi-strand crime movie, their storyline is interwoven with those of their boss, gangster Marsellus Wallace; his actress wife, Mia; struggling boxer Butch Coolidge; master fixer Winston Wolfe and a nervous pair of armed robbers, "Pumpkin" and "Honey Bunny" [a lot of violence in this movie]”
- **Rear Window** [Pn 1993.15 R389 1954] ‘The story of a recuperating news photographer who believes he has witnessed a murder. Confined to a wheelchair after an accident, he spends his time watching the occupants of neighboring apartments through a telephoto lens and binoculars and becomes convinced that a murder has taken place.”
- **Sophie's Choice** [Pn 1993.15 S671 1982] “Stingo, a young writer, moves to Brooklyn in 1947 to begin work on his first novel. As he becomes friendly with Sophie and her lover Nathan, he learns that Sophie is a Holocaust survivor. Flashbacks reveal her harrowing story, from pre-war prosperity to Auschwitz. In the present, Sophie and Nathan's relationship increasingly unravels as Stingo grows closer to Sophie and Nathan's fragile mental state becomes ever more apparent.”
- **The Conversation** [PN1993.15 .C6532 1974] “Surveillance expert Harry Caul is hired by a mysterious client's brusque aide to tail a young couple, Mark and Ann. Tracking the pair through San Francisco's Union Square, Caul and his associate Stan manage to record a cryptic conversation between them. Tormented by memories of a previous case that ended badly, Caul becomes obsessed with the resulting tape, trying to determine if the couple are in danger.”
- **The Godfather, Part II** [Pn 1993.15 G625 1990] “The compelling sequel to "The Godfather," contrasting the life of Corleone father and son. Traces the problems of Michael Corleone in 1958 and that of a young immigrant Vito Corleone in 1917's Hell's Kitchen. Michael survives many misfortunes and Vito is introduced to a life of crime.”
- **The Matrix** [PN1993.15 .M425 1999] “Neo believes that Morpheus, an elusive figure considered to be the most dangerous man alive, can answer his question -- What is the Matrix? Neo is contacted by Trinity, a beautiful stranger who leads him into an underworld where he meets Morpheus. They fight a brutal battle for their lives against a cadre of viciously intelligent secret agents. It is a truth that could cost Neo something more precious than his life.
- **Decide upon watching two films from the list above.** Each of the films above is owned by and available to view through the Le Moyne College Library. The number in brackets after each title is that film's call number. The synopsis of each film was taken from Google with the search question as “[film name] synopsis].

- Note that most of the films listed above are hardly family-friendly. They may contain murder, sexual materials, scenes of significant pain and distress, and/or psychological tension. That said, many of these films are among the best ever made in the history of American film-making.
- **For each of the two films which you watch, you should prepare a written reflection of at least three typed pages.** For each reflection, you should contain two basic elements: (1) an explanation how the film depends upon or illustrates principles of telling a story or challenges how a story is told, and (2) your own response to or reflections upon the film, e.g., did anything surprise you or challenge your thinking about things? The principles or issues of narrative psychology of particular importance to this assignment might include social constructivism, psychological constructionism, Bakhtin's heteroglossia, cultural psychology, etc.
- You might find it helpful to use some secondary sources to aid your thinking, e.g., reviews which have appeared, or articles written about individual films. For pre-1990 films, you might wish to consult materials such as the following:

Magill, F. N. (Ed.). Magill's survey of cinema, English language films. First series. Vols. 1-4. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press. REF PN1993.45.M32

Magill, F. N. (Ed.). Magill's survey of cinema, English language films. Second series. Vols. 1-6. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press. REF PN1993.45.M32

Note that the Le Moyne College Library contains a relatively significant number of sources having to do with film reviews, film criticism, etc. Of course, you recall that the use of secondary sources must be cited in your reflection essays.

- The reviews are due in two forms by Monday, November 21, 2022 (Monday of Thanksgiving Week). One form is printed and stapled (each review done separately) and one form sent electronically to my email address.

### ***Autobiographical Writing Option***

- If you choose this option, you are expected to prepare a typewritten description of some significant experience in your life. You are telling an autobiographical story. The story you compose should reveal something about who you are. The story should have some sort of beginning and some sort of ending. It may cover as long or as short a period as you believe important to tell the story and, thus, the length of this "autobiographical essay" is left up to you. Aside from judging its completeness as a story and the fact that you have done it, you will not be "graded" on its specific content.
- Following the writing of this autobiographical sketch, you should share it with me, some other faculty member, or some non-family friend. The purpose of this sharing is to allow you the chance to talk about what you wrote, to hear the reactions of another person, and to talk out loud about what it was like to do this piece of writing.
- Finally, you should prepare a reflective essay of at least three typewritten pages about the experience of writing up an autobiographical story. Was it hard or easy to do? What are you best satisfied and least satisfied with in the way you wrote the story? Could the story have been told by someone else from another point of view?
- These two pieces of writing should be turned in to me in two forms by Monday, November 20, 2023 (Monday of Thanksgiving week). One form is printed and stapled and one form is sent electronically to my email address.