

• Due 17 November <Thursday, Wk 8> at Practicum which begins at 10:00 AM in Com. 308  
[1" margins/11-12 pt font] 3-4 Pages

**NOTE: Your paper MUST BE PROOFREAD FOR TYPOS, SPELLING AND GRAMMAR. Faculty will not read paper if it is apparent that you have not taken the time to do this to the best of your ability**

**REMEMBER: use correct citation methods and provide a bibliography if you use more sources than just PL.**

Your paper will be a *critical reading* of **one** of the film/videos listed below. In this *critical essay* (PLEASE USE Corrigan) you are to utilize analytical concepts from *Practices of Looking*. After you choose your film, select an appropriate concept or group of related concepts from the list below. You may choose to include other terms (that aren't on this list) that relate to the one/s you do choose.

• **Key points:**

- > You do not need to provide a plot summary of the film (Corrigan explains this).
- > Do not analyze the plot of the film. Discuss cinematic language/audio-visual language as it relates to themes, characters, events in the film. [See Corrigan and film journal guidelines.]
- > Remember to define your term/s as you use them, making sure you understand the definition you give. It is not enough to simply quote the book's definition, though that's a good start.

[There are many, many ways to approach this assignment. You might describe how the film is an example of \_\_\_\_\_. You might do a psychoanalytic reading of \_\_\_\_\_. You might examine how the film makes use of \_\_\_\_\_ in its construction of meaning.]

**Choose one of the following films/videos:**

- Conspirators of Pleasure*, Svankmajer (Local rental or program copy)
- Meshes of the Afternoon*, Deren (TESC)
- A Movie*, Connor (TESC)
- Joan Does Dynasty*, Braderman (TESC)
- Production Notes: Fast Food for Thought*, Simon (TESC)
- Watermelon Woman*, Dunye (Local rental)

**Choose one or more (if related) of the following terms/concepts from Practices of Looking:**

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Semiotics   | Ideology              |
| The Gaze  | Interpellation        |
| Myth  | Psychoanalytic Theory |
| Oppositional strategies/Hegemony, Agency and Resistance | Foucault/Discourse    |
| Appropriation and recontextualization                   | Culture Industry      |
| Bricolage and textual poaching                          | Spectacle             |
| High and Low Culture                                    | Public Sphere         |

**To successfully complete this paper** you will need to review Ch. 1,2 and 5 (already assigned) AND read Ch. 3 of *Practices of Looking*, and unless you have very good notes, you will also need to review the film you have chosen to write on for your paper.

**Helpful tips:** there is a **glossary** in the back of PL; there is an **index** that will point you to all the places in PL where these terms are mentioned; there are also “**Further Readings**” listed at the end of each chapter of PL—you may choose to pursue one or more of these as a way to further investigate how you want to use your term/concept.

**Another helpful source:** Raymond Williams, *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*. This is on library OPEN RESERVE for Mediaworks.

**How you’ll begin to write this paper:**

**THIS THURSDAY**, in lieu of formal class meetings, meet with your **XXYY group** in a quiet place to review PL chapters, discuss terms/concepts from the list that you’re thinking of using, and generally use your peers as a sounding board for coming up with your paper topic and ideas for arguments/thesis statements. You will need to come to this meeting **PREPARED**, obviously, or you won’t get much out of it, and your peers won’t get much from you. This means come having read PL and having taken good notes on it and having read this handout with ideas percolating for your paper. You can meet off-campus or on-campus. Faculty will be at the faculty retreat all day so you can set your own schedule after checking with your **XXYY group**.

**Thursday Group Meeting Tasks**

1. Reread closely pp. 45-47 in *Practices of Looking*. Discuss these 3 pages with your **XXYY group**. Then select your film and filmmaker. (Note: You also may, as a group, decide to all write on the same film but take differing approaches to a critical analysis of it, or perhaps 2 of you might choose to work on the same film, or you may all do different films—it’s up to you.)
2. Review the terms or concepts from *Practices of Looking*. Make sure you all have a good grasp of these.
3. Do a 30-min. “free-write” exercise where you develop your first take on the assignment. Share this writing with your group. Take note of their suggestions and reactions.
4. If some or all of you are working on the same film/video, before you end your meeting set up a group screening time. This is a great opportunity to watch something closely, as a group, taking and sharing notes and discussing in terms of your paper ideas.