

Film 136a
spring 2009
final paper guidelines
due in section, last week of class

Specifications

8-10 pages (minimum 2600 words)
must have:

- title
- page numbers
- staple or paperclip

Overview: connections

For your final paper, you will choose two of the following six topics listed below and "intersect" them. At that intersection, you will develop and support a thesis that examines anywhere between 1 and 3 specific films and/or videos from class. It is up to you which films and/or videos you choose; and how you develop your thesis at this intersection. However, you must make an effort to bring the two topics that you choose together into some kind of focus, and to sustain that focus throughout your paper. In other words, **you should not** divide your paper in half, treating the one topic in one half and the other topic in the other half.

Each of the topics listed below is something that has been addressed repeatedly, though not always in the same way, throughout the course. You will need to draw upon course readings (discussing them sufficiently, using direct quotes when necessary) that pertain to these topics. In so doing, you need to demonstrate your understanding of how the readings discuss those topics. You are also welcome (but not required) to use outside scholarly materials (that is, not Wikipedia – although Wikipedia is fine for doing background research).

In addition to referring to the appropriate readings, you must provide sustained audio-visual analysis of the films and videos that you discuss. Also be sure to distinguish between "film" and "video" – that is, pay attention to the qualities of the media.

Topics

- **form(at)s and materials** [this especially involves the various types of modernist aesthetics, but also issues of postmodernism]
- **everyday practice** [this includes early avant-garde efforts to sublimate the difference between art and everyday life; but also later efforts to develop alternative forms of video]
- **identity experiments** [this can include a wide range of works at different periods dealing with gendered, sexual, racial, and ethnic identity]
- **phenomenology (space/time/perception/memory)** [works that involve subjective perception in space and time, in different types of media]
- **avant-gardism** [the historical efforts of the avant-garde, its relationship to modernism, postmodernism, anti-art, etc.; also 'underground,' 'experimentation,' 'counterculture']
- **history and memory** [ways in which history and/or memory are reworked in experimental film and video]

Tip

When intersecting the topics, your argument should not be "I am intersecting these two topics." That's not really an intersection. Instead, you need to look more deeply into the topics and come up with supportable connections between them.

Grading

- Argument that intersects two topics and that is sustained through essay: 10
- Support of that argument (organization, development, syntax & grammar): 20
- Engagement with readings/concepts: 15
- Film/video close analysis: 15
- Words on a page: 40