

## Final Project

**deadline:** April 19th

**points:** 20 (20% of total grade)

**length:** 6-10 pages

In consultation with the instructor, you will design a final project that relates to the course material. At least 50% of this project must be theory and/or analysis, but it *may include a creative component*.

### CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS

- If your final project is in essay form, it must be 6-10 pages in length. If you choose to add a creative component to your project, then the analytical portion of your project must be 3-5 pages in length. There are no page requirements for the creative portion of your project.
- Your project must be well-written. Follow conventional, academic rules for organization, grammar, paragraph structure and punctuation.
- The analytical component of your project must have an argument, with a **thesis, supporting claims and evidence**.
- Avoid any and all **unnecessary** summary. Remember that summary should only be used as **evidence** to support your central claims. Generally speaking, you should not use more than 1 line of summary per paragraph or one paragraph of summary per page.
- Use **at least 6 resources**.
- Include a complete, properly formatted **bibliography** in MLA style.
- Use **in-text citations**.
- Use proper MLA format throughout your paper. Check out the sample page at the OWL at Purdue for an example of a paper in MLA style:  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
- Remember to include **PERSONAL** and **COURSE INFORMATION**, a **TITLE** and a **BIBLIOGRAPHY. NUMBER YOUR PAGES** in proper MLA format and **STAPLE YOUR PAGES**. If you do not do the things in this final bullet point, I will **hand your paper right back to you to be resubmitted for a late grade**.

### POSSIBLE TOPICS\*

- The re-appropriation of either the Orpheus myth or the Richard Matheson novel in the film *What Dreams May Come*.
- The modernization of Shakespeare's play in *Hamlet* (2000).
- The retelling of a superhero's (Spider-Man, Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk, Catwoman, etc.) origin story (or adventure, arc, etc.) in movie (or TV show, or animated series) form.
- The incorporation of elements of the Jean Cocteau film, *La Belle et la Bete*, in Disney's animated *Beauty and the Beast*.

\*Though the adaptations listed here are all from film or TV, please feel free to seek out adaptation in other media.

### EXAMPLE THESIS:

**Topic:** *Beauty and the Beast*, Jean Cocteau film v. Disney animation

**Thesis:** Through the use of caricature, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* reinvents two significant characters in Jean Cocteau's 1946 cast, transforming what was both beautiful and sinister in the human forms into the comic grotesque. This reflects an ongoing trend in Disney films of setting villains—even attractive ones—apart visually from the films' more 'normative' heroes and heroines.

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRODUCE A COMPLETELY ANALYTICAL PROJECT**, then you must write about an *adaptation* of some kind. The adaptation does not need to be strict, but you must be able to prove, in the course of your essay, that your subject qualifies as an adaptation (though this should most likely not be the central thrust of your essay).

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRODUCE A PARTIALLY CREATIVE PROJECT**, then you will in all likelihood be making an adaptation of your own. If this is the case, then the “adaptation” discussed in the analytical component of your project can be your own adaptation.