



**Course requirements as percentage of final grade:**

- 10% Care and attention to following instructions
- 20% Midterm essay based on course readings/films and introductory announcements
- 30% Final essay based on ALL course readings/films and my introductory announcements
- 40% 13 short writing assignments

**Course work is graded according to the following criteria:**

1. Level of success in identifying the question, problem, or issue at hand.
2. Level of success in presenting sufficient evidence, analysis, or information to address the particular assignment.
3. Level of success in clearly explaining insights, thoughts, and ideas to the reader.

See the **UNCG Critical Thinking Rubric** included in this syllabus.

**Grading will not be done through Canvas.** Short writing assignments will be assessed as check minus, check, or check plus (fair, good, very good). The midterm essay and final essay will each be given a letter grade (with the possible addition of + or -) of A (excellent), B (very good), C (average), D (below average), or F (failure to minimally meet the criteria), which will be converted to numerical scores on a 100 point scale.

Be aware that the short writing assignments will be posted by me as **Announcements and Assignments** over Canvas on Saturdays, with a due date on the following Friday. This schedule is to allow flexibility for students to turn in their work earlier in the week, if that is more convenient to their schedule, or later on, if that is preferable. In other words, **the 'due' date is simply the last day you can turn in your assignment.**

Always prepare for your short writing assignments by taking notes while you are doing the reading or watching the film. Having the syllabus and schedule handy is also strongly advised, either printed out or written out in a calendar. I also strongly advise you to purchase a spiral notebook devoted to the course so you can keep your notes together in good order for writing assignments and for preparing your midterm and final course essays. **Studies have established that writing out notes in longhand greatly helps learning and retaining what you have learned.** This is NOT the case with recording lectures or typing notes into a computer.

THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP ESSAYS ALLOWED; SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE TIME AND DATE IT IS DUE UNLESS YOU PROVIDE ME WITH A DOCUMENTED EXCUSE.

All assignments must be your own work, in your own words, and in complete sentences. Using ideas from someone else is plagiarism unless you cite the source you are borrowing from. If you borrow exact wording from another source, you must use quotation marks and cite the source. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. You must comply with the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy. It is online at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>