

A pair of black-rimmed glasses is resting on a stack of books. A red ribbon bookmark is visible in the foreground. The background is blurred, showing more books and a wooden surface.

THIRD PAPER ASSIGNMENT

PSVP 2044

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INFORMATION

- Prior to their Third Paper assignment, students were shown Mel Brook's 1967 film, *The Producers*, during coverage of the role media representation plays in issues of peace activism, racism, political violence, et cetera.
- They were also required to watch Lindsay Ellis' video essay *Mel Brooks, The Producers and the Ethics of Satire about N@zis*. ([link](#)).
- Students were then given an essay assignment (Third Paper), wherein they would select a film and answer critical questions regarding social group portrayals and power dynamics.
 - Students were provided information on how to legally access each film via University or Web streaming or physical media repositories.
 - *Mulan* was the most popular choice, followed by *Inglorious Basterds* and *Fight Club*. Some students also analyzed *Unforgiven*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Dirty Pretty Things*, and *Lord of War*.

FILM CHOICES

- *American History X*
- *The Downfall*
- *Moolaade*
- *The Great Dictator*
- *Inglorious Basterds*
- *This is England*
- *The Pianist*
- *The Ogre*
- *Unforgiven*
- *Lord of War*
- *Catch a Fire*
- *Dirty Pretty Things*
- *Blazing Saddles*
- *Black Robe*
- *Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*
- *The Last of the Mohicans*
- *Fiddler on the Roof*
- *Good Morning, Vietnam*
- *Fight Club*
- *Mulan*

PAPER ASSIGNMENT

- 1 page, double spaced: A summary of the film. What happens in it, who the main characters are, etc.
- 2 pages, double spaced: An analysis of philosophy: Discuss the film creators' philosophy regarding the subject matter, your philosophy of the subject matter, and how well each are represented on screen. In other words, through what *social lens* is this film viewed through and how does that differ from your own? (You may have to use sources beyond the film for this.)
- 1 page, double spaced: A discussion on how the film portrays power. Is there a social hierarchy present in the film? Is that hierarchy glorified or challenged? Are the aesthetics of it portrayed as something to be feared, respected, mocked, or a combination of the three? Give examples for each argument you make.
- 1-2 pages, double spaced: Answer Lindsay Ellis' questions regarding the film...
- How is representation of each group framed?
 - Does it lead closer to being romanticized/glorified? Is there anyone present who gets treated disparagingly as a result? If so, who and how?
 - Does it lean closer to being mocked/satirized? If so, at whose expense is the joke?
- 1 page, double spaced: Conclusion
 - Is this film an ethical portrayal of the issue? Why or why not? What are the potential consequences (good or bad) of the representation?
 - What critiques do you have regarding the film? What worked, what didn't, and what could be done better?
 - How would **you** portray this issue?



PAPER ASSIGNMENT

- Length Requirements: Follow the guidelines for **MINIMUM** length requirements. 10 page maximum length.
- Source Requirements: 6 sources, at least TWO of which must come from the assigned readings. In addition, you must also reference the Lindsay Ellis video. IN ADDITION, I want **scholarly sources ONLY**.
- Citation Requirements: APA Citations, No Footnotes/Endnotes, In-Text Citations and Bibliography Required.