

Oppositional Film Project
Due by 10pm on Tuesday, December 2

Our class will split into six groups. Each group will receive a genre (i.e. action, rom-com, Western, etc). Your group must:

- **Research** the conventions of that genre, such as iconic images, stock characters, storylines, etc. *Including* the way this genre portrays *gender*. **You must find and cite at least two scholarly articles with this information.**
- **Create** a short oppositional film this genre. (Write the script and film it). Length: 5 min. Your film must address at least two axes of privilege and oppression (ex: Race and gender. Disability and class.)
- **Write** a 5-6 pg paper explaining your film and directly linking it to class concepts. This paper should cover:
 1. **Conventions:** The basic conventions of your genre, including its portrayal of gender, and how you used these conventions.
 2. **Goals:** What messages you want your film to express, and how they challenge hegemonic ideology. Use terms & concepts from our course, **citing at least three class readings.**
 3. **Techniques:** What specific images, patterns, words, or ideas you placed in the film to express these messages.
 4. **Self-critique:** Does any aspect of your art perhaps reproduce hegemonic norms and power imbalances, even unintentionally?
- **Present** your film in class for 10 min. Each group will screen its film (5 min) then briefly explain main points from their essay (such as genre, goals, techniques, and self-critique) (5 min)

Midway Milestone

By November 3, each group must email me with their basic plan in about 5 sentences.

Items to Submit to Dropbox

1. Film script
2. Essay about your film, including bibliography
 - Bibliography must include at least 5 sources: 2 from outside class and 3 from class
3. Your film (as a file or link to a youtube video)

Grading

You will receive a group grade, *except* for participation: You will each receive an individual participation grade based on how the rest of your group rates your engagement. Your film will be graded on creativity, effort, and how closely it matches the goals that you state in your essay. Your essay will be graded by rubric on clarity, organization, following directions, grammar, etc.

It should be very evident that everyone in your group worked on all aspects of the project, such as:

- Choosing your film's goals and messages
- Physically planning and creating the film (acting, holding the camera, editing, etc)
- Planning the key ideas for your paper
- Writing and proofreading the paper

What's an Oppositional Film?

Film that disrupts and challenges hegemonic ideology—that is, dominant beliefs or ways of seeing the world. For example, your film could:

- Challenge or parody common assumptions, prejudices, norms, and beliefs
- Show possibilities we don't commonly imagine or see in the media (ex: a lesbian Indian couple)
- Call on viewers to stand up and make change in the world
- Flip the power hierarchies that we usually see in media
- Make viewers feel positive, empowered, nourished by what they see (rather than degraded by it)

Your film project can be funny, serious, happy, sad, or any mixture of these! You can also choose to *parody* your assigned genre. I'm excited to see what you create!