**MFS 260**

**African American Cinema**

**Dr. Champion**

**Fall 2022**

**Assignment: Short Responses**

Response papers are short reflections on our weekly readings and films. This assignment is designed to motivate you to prepare properly for class, to help you practice the craft of academic writing, and to help me understand your interests and strengths. These short papers will likely help you formulate your thesis for the final research paper.

You will complete four reading responses and four film responses.

4 Reading Responses

Most weeks, we will have a reading assignment from Bogle, and you must choose 4 weeks to write a response.

I will provide a specific prompt posted on Moodle. This portion of the response must be 90 to 150 words.

You will also choose your own original topic from the readings to discuss and provide reaction. There will be plenty of material in each week’s assignment to inspire reaction. This portion of the response should be 150 to 200 words.

Post your responses to the forum BEFORE class time when the reading is due. And be ready to discuss your response with the class.

4 Film Responses

We watch a film together each week during class. You will choose four films to respond to. You should write out some notes and then formulate a response that includes important concepts, issues, and emotions that the film inspired in you. You may also look up supplemental articles and reviews and include your response to those. This response should be between 200 and 300 words.

Responses are your thoughts based on the film and on the readings. Response papers therefore may vary widely from person to person and even from day to day. What do you find interesting in the film? Is there anything in our readings that you agree or disagree with? How does this film fit into the big picture of the African American experience?

Your papers can also address the filmmaker’s personal background, the filmmaker’s creative decisions, and the context within which the film was produced and received by audiences.

No part of these responses should be summarizing. I do not need you to repeat what the authors wrote or the plot of the film. I need you to provide your own personal thoughts, ideas, reactions, emotions, or disagreements. You are welcome to look up supplemental material to include in your response, but be sure to provide citation for anything that is not your own idea.

Technical Guidelines

Use MLA style. All ideas and quotes that are not your own must be attributed properly. Include a Works Cited page.

You must post your response to the Moodle section “Short Responses” BEFORE class when they are due. Each reading or film response will have its own “Turnitin” sub-section. If the post is not before the start of class each day, it will not be accepted on Moodle.

You may select any reading assignment or film, and you do not have to alert me ahead of time when you plan to write a response. But you must finish at least four of each by their due dates. So, plan ahead!!

This assignment is worth 40% of your grade, so each response is therefore 5%.