

*Guidelines for your Movie Examination  
Sample Cover Sheet*

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Asian Studies 101 – Spring 2006

December 14, 2005

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***Guidelines for your Movie Examination***

The following are general guidelines to help you with your movie examination. The movies will be placed on reserve at the Media Center for your viewing. You will be asked to pick one from the list provided. The movie choice will depend on your country or region of interest. You will need to clear your choice and your sources with me first. The purpose of this exercise is to train you to be systematic about writing papers properly. If you follow these guidelines now and in the future, you will come to realize how easy it is to write papers - if you have a system.

**Project**

There will be **two submissions** for this project:

[1] The first one will be at the time of the **mid-term**. You will submit your *cover sheet*, *movie choice*, *a written outline*, and *3 outside references* (which should reflect the MLA guidelines). ***SORRY - NO INTERNET SOURCES ALLOWED.***

**Links to the SDSU Library that provide information on MLA:**

<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/styles/cite.shtml>

[http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/styles/mla\\_style.shtml](http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/styles/mla_style.shtml)

Below, I will outline three of the sections that you will need to cover. Cover sheet should include: [b] the title (which should have the movie title in it), [b] your name, [c] the class title and session, and [d] the date. Three pages maximum (double spaced).

[2] The second one, on finals week, is the actual final paper. Use your outline as the basis for your final paper – it will be easier for you this way. You will not have to re-write the *list of references* because you will already have it. For the **final** do not include the title page and the list of references (already approved) in your page count. Final paper should be a minimum three to a maximum of four pages of **CONTENT** (double spaced). Total number of pages for the final paper is 4 minimum and 5 maximum (double space).

**Part 1: Introduction**

: The introduction should include a short narrative of what you will be writing about. At times it is called a “Thesis Statement.” You will, in this section briefly explain what the rest of the paper is about. Describe in two or three paragraphs what the subject matter is to let your readers know the general areas that your critique will cover.

**Part 2: Movie Summary (required)**

: In this section you will summarize the movie. Take your time to explain what the story or film is about. Please resist the temptation of plagiarize on the internet. In your own words tell your reader what the story is about.

**Part 3: Filmmaker’s Intent or Central Theme (required)**

: Explain the filmmaker’s intent. Do not simply discuss what the movie is about – you already did that in the previous section. Rather, tell the reader what the author wants to convey. Is the filmmaker making you think? If so, what he/she making you think about? Since the class is about Asian Thought and Culture, you can explain what the filmmaker is trying to say about or what he/she is trying to convey. Is he/she trying to portray something (i.e. Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, or Shinto etc.)? What is the argument, point, aim, or theme? Is he/she trying to say something or make “social commentary or showing items “Asian”? Here and the subsequent section is where your references will come in handy.

**Part 4: Assessment of Success or Failure (required)**

: In this section you will critique or assess how well the filmmaker achieves his/her goal. Does the movie meet the filmmaker’s aim? Does it make a valid argument? In other words, is the movie “successful” in achieving what you believe it was supposed to do? This part of your essay will be subjective. I can also come from the references you have chosen – but you need to “cite” that this critic said this or that. Here is where you formulate an opinion. The tricky part is you will need to back up your opinion with some examples.

**Part 5: Conclusion**

: Here is where you bring everything to a close. You in effect, repeat your introduction with a twist. You can also use this section to make a statement about whether the movie is worth watching or not.

Your grade will be based 75% on the content of your argument, and 25% on your writing and composition, including grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and citation style. Your paper will be, as noted above, double spaced typed, paginated (with page numbers), and printed on white bond paper. If you are using articles or reviews, please attach them to the paper as well. If you quote from a book, include it in the body of the paper and cite properly. Otherwise, copy the page and attach it to the paper as well.