

# Final Essay

## Description of the Assignment

There are four general options for your final project:

1. Write an **extended** analysis of an art photograph using John Berger's method as described in "Appearances".
2. Write a critical essay on Julian Stallabrass' critique of Jeff Wall.
3. Write a critical essay on some aspect of **ethics** in cinema, responding specifically to Eaton's essay on Almodovar.
4. Write a critical essay on **truth** in cinema, responding specifically to Williams' essay on documentary.

Before beginning work on your essay, please post a short abstract, in the Discussion Forum for Week 14, describing the topic and approach you intend to take. This will give each of you a chance to see what others are doing and how they're approaching the assignment. Week 15 will be open for general discussion about issues and questions that arise in your writing the final essay. Feel free to collaborate with one another, acknowledging your sources, and giving credit where credit is due.

Be sure that you have a good understanding of the texts and works you plan to write about. Keep in mind that, while I want you to make this assignment relevant to your own work and concerns, it is also an academic exercise. Your task is to **demonstrate** how much you're learned this semester and give me the evidence I need to assess your achievement. So be cautious and don't presuppose the reader knows much at all about your subject matter. Assume you're writing for an intelligent friend who is intellectually curious but has little expertise in visual studies.

Also take care that your discussion makes use of **relevant** material covered in this course and, in particular, in your target essay. It is up to you to determine what is relevant to the **thesis** you're defending and what is not.

## Requirements

You must choose **one** of the options listed above. Your essay should be approximately **7-8 pages** in length, **double-spaced** with **one-inch margins** and in **12-point** type. All papers must be run through a spell-checker and proofread manually. You will be evaluated on the form and content of your papers, so pay close attention to both appearance and grammar.

Post your final essays to your wiki and **also** submit the paper to me by **email** as a fully formatted PDF or MS Word **attachment**.

**All papers are due in my email inbox by Tuesday, 8 May 2012, 10:00 AM.**

Final essays submitted after the deadline will be marked down one increment of a grade per day. For example, an "A" paper handed in one day late will receive an "A-", two days late, a "B+", etc.

For additional guidelines on writing critical essays, see the relevant handout on the "Resources" section of my website: <http://homepage.newschool.edu/~quigleyt>

If you need additional instructions or guidelines, see me.

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### **Statement on Academic Honesty**

It is expected that all work submitted for a grade in this course reflects the work of the student submitting it. Students are **encouraged** to discuss their work with others (inside and outside of class), and to exchange drafts of papers with one another for comments and criticisms. But keep in mind that if you borrow an idea from someone else, you must **cite the source**, even if it is based on a conversation or correspondence.

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result in a **failing** grade for the **course**.

Anyone who does not fully understand the standards of academic honesty should speak to me in advance of submitting coursework.