Contemporary Civilization Essay. Format Instructions • Six pages, double spaced, 1’’ margins, 12 pt Times New Roman font (or equiv.) • Number pages in lower right hand corner • On the front page: Give your essay a title Do not include a cover page. • At the end of the essay (not included in page count), give proper citations for the in-class reading(s) you chose to write on and the news article/piece of media you chose to write on. (For proper citations, use a style guide, for instance the Chicago Manual of Style.) • Throughout the paper, use proper citations whenever you quote, paraphrase, or talk about another’s idea. Again, see Chicago Manual of Style as an example, though you may use whatever style guide you like. • If a direct quote runs more than three lines (I discourage this but sometimes it’s difficult to avoid), block quote and single space it. Assignment You will analyze a news article/video/lecture/piece of media of your choice using one of the readings assigned for class. In your essay, I will be looking for an account of the chosen class reading and an analysis of the news article using the ideas contained in your discussion of the class reading. Grading Rubric In grading your essays, I will be looking for the following: A clear, accurate, and sufficiently detailed articulation of the argument in the class reading. So, for instance, if you choose to use Foucault’s theory of power to analyze a piece of news, I will expect an account of what Foucault’s theory of power is and how he arrives at this theory. A clear account of the news article. I haven’t read this! You should assume for the whole paper that the reader has not read anything you are writing about and that’s especially important for the news article. Explain it. I’ve almost certainly not read/seen/heard what you’re talking about! A good reading-article match. Are the reading and article clearly related? Does the reading illuminate some surprising aspect of the article? Does it allow you to give a deeper reading of the article? Does it allow for a sharp critique of the article? If the answer is yes to one or more of these, then you’re on the right track. Or, is the connection between the two too tenuous/superficial/obvious? For example, is the only connection between Foucault and the news article simply that in the article they’re talking about sex a lot, just as Foucault argued we are these days? If the answer is yes to any of these, you might not be on the right track. Or maybe you are on the right track but you just need to dig a bit deeper and think more about how the article and reading are connected. A coherent, well structured essay that develops and defends a thesis statement. Does the essay begin with a clear thesis statement, thus telling me what the essay is about? Is the thesis statement part of a larger introduction, introducing me to the problem that the thesis is addressing? Does the discussion of the class reading connect well with the discussion of the news article, or do they seem like separate papers? Is the paper coherent overall? An essay which is, on the whole, clearly written with minimal grammatical errors. For further advice about how to write clearly about your chosen class reading, see Jim Pryor’s Guidelines to Writing a Philosophy Paper. A