**Summer 2020**

**SOCIOLOGY AT THE MOVIES GUIDELINES**

Confirm that your movie choice has been approved by the instructor before you begin writing. You can do this by sending the title of the movie to the instructor and getting a confirmation email. Then, proceed to watch the movie with a careful sociological eye. If you are having difficulty making a decision on which movie to write about, see the list of recommendations below.

*\** ***Format****.* Your paper should be between 3-4 double-spaced pages using MLA or APA format. If you cite any sources, the full citations should appear in a separate Works Cited or Bibliography page.

***\* Story, Dialogue, Action!***Movies tell stories, and so should your paper. Dialogue and action bring stories to life and you can increase your readers' interest by quoting revealing snippets of dialogue and describing how the film relates to sociological concepts. These narrative elements are especially effective when used in the introductory paragraphs because they help to engage the reader. Remember, though, your job is **not to tell the whole story of the movie** but to focus on aspects of sociological relevance. Don't let the movie's narrative control you; use the movie to tell *your* sociological story. ***\* Argument.***The main body of your review--all but the introductory and concluding paragraphs--should develop your sociological argument. This is where you tell the reader about the sociological significance of the movie, applying **at least three** sociological concepts. Roughly two-thirds of the review should be devoted to this purpose***\* Summary.***A summary paragraph should concisely state your main conclusion and leave the reader with something to think about after they finishes reading the paper. You may provoke the reader by asking a thought provoking question, identifying an intriguing paradox, or mentioning an unresolved issue.***\* Keep it Real****.* Your review should be grammatically correct and you should always use correct spelling and punctuation. But beyond these obvious requirements, remember that it always pays to write in a straightforward way. Don't use flowery prose or concepts that you don’t fully understand. Avoid the passive voice ("John saw the car," not "The car was seen by John"). Don't use big words when small words will suffice. Use the spell-check and grammar-check features of your word processing program. Read and reread your paper. Have someone else read your paper. Then read it again. You can always improve it.

**\*Beware of Plagiarism!** Remember, if it’s not your original idea, you must cite it! Read the following library link for more information on how to avoid plagiarism. I highly recommend that you read it even if you are an experienced writer. You may **NOT** use Wikipedia for your sources. You **MUST** use academic journals or textbooks.

**APPROVED MOVIES**

Wedding Crashers

The Shawshank Redemption

Boys Don’t Cry

Crash

Traffic

Good Will Hunting

Higher Learning

Erin Brockovich

Monster

Not Without My Daughter

Dead Man Walking

The Gangs of New York

As Good As It Gets

Gattaca

Gran Torino

Philadelphia

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest

The Other Sister

Brokeback Mountain

What’s Eating Gilbert Grape?

Harold & Maude

Girl Interrupted

Mississippi Masala

Hoop Dreams

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

Beasts of the Southern Wild

Office Space

American History X

Do the Right Thing

Norma Rae

Thelma & Louise

Forrest Gump

Driving Miss Daisy

Amour

John Q

Jungle Fever

Stand and Deliver

Best in Show

Monster’s Ball

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?

Pursuit of Happyness

Wall Street

Hairspray

Tough Guise

Minority Report

Outbreak

Sweet Home Alabama

The Truman Show