

## Term Paper Assignment

Fall 2004 Film & Politics • University of Pittsburgh • Dr. Stuart Shulman

What is the relationship between a set of films and a particular political epoch? Identify no fewer than three films that illuminate an episode of political history. Select at least one analytical framework that can help explain the significance (or insignificance) of these films either as historical texts that provide insight or else as political actions in their own right. Be sure to set an attainable goal for your research. Clearly spell out your thesis and the assumptions that underpin it.

- There is a 20-page limit for text (bibliography and appendix not included).
- Please use 12 point Times New Roman font, with one inch margins on all four sides, and standard double spacing.
- Put your name, date of submission, paper title, and Film & Politics Term Paper on the **cover page only**.
- Use parenthetical citation following a standard style manual.
- Always cite your sources to avoid plagiarism. Any student guilty of plagiarism will receive the grade of “F” for the course.
  - See <http://www.pitt.edu/HOME/PP/policies/02/02-03-03.html> for a description of Student Obligations and Adjudication for Alleged Violations at the University of Pittsburgh.
  - See me if you have any questions about how to avoid the charge of plagiarism.
- Content, research, organization, grammar, and style are the basis for the grade (see the Term Paper Grading Rubric for more details).
- Turn in a hard copy of your completed paper at the class meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

A good research paper contains three basic elements:

### **Theory • Evidence • Argument**

1. **Theory** (review and analysis of the available literature)
2. **Evidence** (presentation your research)
3. **Argument** (your original analysis of the available materials)