

Philosophy and the Movies

Assignment: Choose one of the following movies and write a 2-2 ½ page paper about the philosophy of the particular movie. The paper should be double spaced, in Ariel or Times New Roman, in 12 font size, using standard margin.

Introduction to Philosophy

Gandi (1982). How did Gandi disagree with Socrates' view in the Crito?

Sophie Scholl – The Final Days (2005). How does Sophie disagree or agree with Socrates in Crito?

Siddhartha (1972). How is the journey of Siddhartha like Socrates' search for knowledge?

Pleasantville (1999). Compare Pleasantville with Plato's Allegory of the Cave. Does the use of color in Pleasantville indicate self-actualization? What role do autonomy, knowledge, rationality, freedom, and choice play in the movie? Is there some significance as to why Jennifer remains "uncolored"?

Everything is Illuminated (2006). Compare the characters' journeys in the movie to Plato's Allegory of the Cave.

Metaphysics

Evaluate one of the following movies in light of at least one of the topics discussed in our textbook or class in Metaphysics (World views [theism, atheism, pantheism, etc], materialism, idealism, dualism, determinism vs. free will, consciousness, reality vs. appearance).

A.I. Artificial Intelligence (2001).

Altered State (1980).

Buddy Boy (1999). How much of what Francis sees is real/ What distinguishes reality from unreality.

Matrix (1999). Brain in a Vat, virtual reality, idealism. There is a lot to work with on this one. Can also deal with it under Epistemology.

2001: A Space Odyssey (1968). Does the last half of the movie suggest Idealism? Explain.

The Thirteenth Floor (1999). How many real worlds are there? Explain what they are and how they are distinguished.

Contact (1997).

Gattaca (1997). Good movie to discuss Free Will vs. Determinism.

Terminator I, II, or III. Explain these movies concepts of time.

Religion

Explain the religious views of the Characters in the movie. Are these characters portrayed favorably, negatively, neutrally, a stereotype, or other? Does the movie seem to have a religious or anti-religious bias. What are the religious issues presented in the movie? Does the movie appear to have a motive and did the producers accomplish their motive?

Through a Glass Darkly (1960).

Inherit the Wind (1962).

The Seventh Seal (1957).

Shadowlands (1993).

Echoes of Enlightenment (2001).

Matrix (1999). How is the Matrix similar to the New Testament story of the Jesus as Savior?

Epistemology

What is the epistemology of the characters in the movie (Rationalist, Empiricist, Relativist, Pragmatist, etc.) and are they portrayed as negative, positive, or neutral? Does the movie have an Epistemological purpose? Other epistemological considerations.

The Return of Martin Guerre (1983).

Twelve Angry Men (1957).

House of Games (1987).

Mulholland Drive (2001).

Solaris (2002).

Andromeda Strain (1971).

Outbreak (1994).

The Crying Game (1992).

Ethics

Explain the ethical issue/s of the film and the philosophical position of the characters (Deontological [Kant], Utilitarian, Virtue, Egoism, Relativism, Subjectivism, other). Is the film promoting a position on the issue or the ethics surrounding the issue/s. Other ethical considerations.

Gone Baby Gone (recent, uncertain of date).

Sophie's Choice (1982).

The Woodsman (2004).

Nowhere in Africa (2001).

Enemy Mine (1985).

Extreme Measures (1996).

Brokeback Mountain (2005).

Breaking Waves (1996).

Jacob the Liar (1975).

A Man for All Seasons (1966).

The Sea Inside (Mar Adentro) (2004).

If These Walls Could Talk (1996)

Juno (2007).

Sliding Doors (1998).

The Manchurian Candidate (2004 or 1962).

Social/Political Philosophy

What is the Social/Political Issue/s presented in the film? Explain the Social/Political Philosophy of the characters in the film and the Philosophy propagated by the film.

Crash (2004).

Nineteen Eighty-Four (1984).

The Lord of the Flies (1990).

Hero (2002).

Thelma and Louise (1991).

The Long Walk Home (1990).

The Fog of War (2003).

The Thin Red Line (1998).

Braveheart (1995).

Art

Amadeus (1984).

Meaning of Life

Shawshank Redemption (1994).

About Schmidt (2002).